



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

October 2021

Little Prince—aka Prince Pratt when he's being a nuisance—is turning out to be a delightful nuisance. He is cuddly, affectionate, smart, mostly obedient and hell on his big sister. But given that he's all of thirteen or fourteen weeks old, I'm prepared to cut him some slack. His sister, I suspect, would be happy to cut something else. Like his neck! He's going to be a bruiser, a big boy, and she's going to have to start teaching him some manners! Pix has not totally accepted him yet, but they do play and tussle a lot, so it should only be a matter of a few weeks and peace will, once again, reign in the Sleuth kingdom.

Our meaningless election has come and gone and, other than inject \$600 million into the economy, seems to have accomplished little. Our PM seems more distracted and more disconnected than ever before, if that is even possible. I was kinda hoping that Mr. Singh might pull the proverbial rabbit out of the hat, but that was going to be a very, very longshot. So here we remain.

all plans for holidays out of country for the foreseeable future. Not quite sure when I'll get to spend the credit that I now have with WestJet—in a moment of optimism I had booked a flight to the Dominican Republic for a Winter 2022 golf holiday—but have every hope of doing so, even if it not until 2023!

ll that aside, been reading a bit...

JD's Picks

HEATHER YOUNG's DISTANT DEAD (\$21) has received such accolades that I figured I had best give it a try. It was nominated for the Edgar Award for Best Novel and the International Thriller Writers' Award for Best Young Adult Novel. It was a *BookPage* Best Book of the Year, a *People Magazine* Best Book of Summer,

It's been a while since we had an in-store event...

BARBARA FRADKIN

author of the Police Inspector Michael Green novels
will be at Sleuth, November 6, from 1pm on
to launch her new Insp. Green novel
The Devil to Pay (#11) (\$19.99)

Covid-19 capacity limits will still apply
so we'll need your help in keeping your
interaction with the author as short as may be necessary!

If you would like us to reserve an autographed copy for you, just be in touch.

Most distressing reading about the Covid situation in Alberta and Saskatchewan; perhaps this will be what it takes to make a few more rush out to get vaccinated and reduce the crush on the hospitals. That we are at the possibility of triage, is indeed frightening. For me, I'm champing at the bit to get a booster shot and have decided to cancel

a *Parade* Best Book of Summer, a Crime Reads Most Anticipated Book of Summer...and, having read it, justly so. I felt such a real connection with young Sal that I was often on the brink of tears, reading what he was going through.

Here's a brief blurb: Adam Merkel left a university professorship in

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Will try to keep that up to date!

Reno to teach middle school in Lovelock seven months before he died. A quiet, seemingly unremarkable man, he connected with just one of his students: Sal Prentiss, a lonely sixth grader who lives with his uncles on a desolate ranch in the hills. The two outcasts developed a tender, trusting friendship that brought each of them hope in the wake of tragedy. But it is Sal who finds Adam's body, charred almost beyond recognition, half a mile from his uncles' compound.

Nora Wheaton, the middle school's social studies teacher, dreamed of a life far from Lovelock only to be dragged back on the eve of her college graduation to care for her disabled father, a man she loves but can't forgive. She sensed in the new math teacher a kindred spirit—another soul bound to Lovelock by guilt and duty. After Adam's death, she delves into his past for clues to who killed him and finds a dark history she understands all too well. But the truth about his murder may lie closer to home. For Sal Prentiss's grief seems heavily shaded with fear, and Nora suspects he knows more than he's telling about how his favorite teacher died. As she tries to earn the wary boy's trust, she finds he holds not only the key to Adam's murder, but an unexpected chance at the life she thought she'd lost.

Weaving together the last months of Adam's life, Nora's search for answers, and a young boy's anguished moral reckoning, this unforgettable thriller brings a small American town to vivid life, filled with complex, flawed characters wrestling with the weight of the past, the promise of the future, and the bitter freedom that forgiveness can bring.

As you no doubt remember, **CRAIG JOHNSON** is a favourite of mine. His latest novel, *Daughter of the Morning Star* (#17) (\$37) has just been released and I dropped everything to read it.

Here's what PW had to say: ...takes the Wyoming sheriff to Lame Deer, Mont., where troubled Jaya Long, the star of her high school basketball team, has been receiving threatening notes. Jaya's tribal police chief aunt worries that much of Jaya's bad behavior stems from the disappearance of her 17-year-old sister a year earlier on a drive back home from Billings and that the notes may be related to that tragedy. After Longmire questions a number of people close to Jaya, including her dysfunctional parents, dead bodies start turning up. Meanwhile, Jaya's team makes it to the state finals, and when someone roughs up the girls' coach, the gallant Longmire fills in and provides Jaya some lessons on the value of being a team player. As usual, Longmire, a Vietnam War vet, shrugs off some serious physical knocks, including falling into a canyon, on the way to a dramatic showdown with a killer and a bittersweet if hopeful ending. Fans will hope the sheriff has no plans to retire soon.

As happened with 2018's *Depth of Winter* (#14) (\$23), where Walt ended up in the northern Mexican desert, alone, far from friends and home, to save his daughter Cady, who has been kidnapped by the cartel, I missed very much, his entourage. Henry and Dog are around and Vic makes a few short appearances, but not enough of her or the others to make a real pleasurable read. Although the secondary characters may be missing, Walt and Henry are flesh and blood, and there were enough twists in the plot to keep me hooked. The prose, as always, is witty and accomplished. The basketball scenes I kinda skipped over—my personal feeling is that basketball games should start with the score at a level 80-80 and the games last a full ten minutes, but that's a non-fan talking—and I'm sure I didn't miss much. That aside, in this one the author explores the level of violence against Native American women, half of whom are reported to have been victims of sexual violence and who are murdered at ten times the national average. A topic which is pretty much top of mind these days.

Midnight Atlanta (#3) (\$32.99) by **THOMAS MULLEN** has also been getting rave reviews. Much to my regret, this was my real introduction to the author even though we have stocked, and sold well, his

earlier novels. *Midnight* is the third book in his darktown series. The first, 2016's *Darktown* (#1) (\$25), was shortlisted for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and nominated for two CWA Dagger awards and the second, 2017's *Lightning Men* (#2) (\$23), was named one of the Top Ten Crime Novels of 2017 by The New York Times. His debut, *The Last Town on Earth* (\$23), was named Best Debut Novel of 2006 by USA Today and was awarded the James Fenimore Cooper Prize for excellence in historical fiction.

Here's a short blurb: Atlanta, 1956. When Arthur Bishop, editor of Atlanta's leading black newspaper, is killed in his office, cop-turned-journalist Tommy Smith finds himself in the crosshairs of the racist cops he's been trying to avoid. To clear his name, he needs to learn more about the dangerous story Bishop had been working on. Meanwhile, Smith's ex-partner Lucius Boggs and white sergeant Joe McInnis—the only white cop in the black precinct—find themselves caught between meddling federal agents, racist detectives, and Communist activists as they try to solve the murder. With a young Rev. Martin Luther King Jr making headlines of his own, and tensions in the city growing, Boggs and Smith find themselves back on the same side in a hunt for the truth that will put them both at risk.

This was an excellent read and I look forward to going back to the earlier novels.

Marian's Picks

Who would have thought having a new puppy would be so exhausting! I certainly didn't feel this tired with Percy or Pixie, but I guess I also didn't have a second puppy around.

Thanks to everyone who sent in name suggestions for the New Puppy; we have decided to call him Prince. He is quite an elegant fellow and will grow into his name. Because he is a food hound, unlike Percy and Pixie, it's been easy to train him on some of the simple commands: sit, come, and drop. If he gets really excited, then all bets are off. He's either gone deaf or doesn't understand a word. For a 14-week-old pup, he is doing quite well. I took both Percy and Pixie to puppy classes but with the pandemic still so active, I'm reluctant to go anywhere where there are crowds, and being in puppy class every puppy wants to visit with everyone, dogs and other people included. The three of us will have to teach him all he needs to know. Prior to getting Percy I had bought a book titled *The Art of Raising a Puppy* (\$36.50) by the **MONKS OF NEW SKETE** which is a terrific read, with lots of detailed instructions and suggestions for training your puppy. The Monks breed and train German Shepherds, and have been doing it for decades, so I knew I was onto a good thing. I re-read parts of the book prior to getting Prince, so he is in good hands.

When I looked back at the books I've read over the past 3 or 4 weeks I notice a couple of themes: World War II/spies/the resistance and working in a bookstore! Purely coincidental, I assure you. Books arrive when they will, and I grab them as they arrive. The three WWII-themed ones are based on actual events, so I pick up a little history along with being entertained and, if my curiosity is piqued, which it usually is, I go do a little research and become a more learned person! Go Google!

The front cover of *A Most Clever Girl* (\$23) by **STEPHANIE MARIE THORNTON** said: "A Novel of an American Spy". I was intrigued so I picked the book up and read a review on the back which said: "A thrilling novel of love, loyalty, and espionage, based on the incredible true story of Elizabeth Bentley, a Cold War double agent spying for the Russians and the United States, from USA Today best-selling author Stephanie Marie Thornton". I had no idea who Elizabeth Bentley was, so I was piqued—see, told you—and Google and I

spent an informative half-hour together. What I read about Bentley made me want to read the book and I'm glad I did. The story moved along quickly and spans a few decades, the characters were interesting, with a lot of names I knew from real life.

Here is the blurb: 1963: Reeling from the death of her mother and President Kennedy's assassination, Catherine Gray shows up on Elizabeth Bentley's doorstep demanding answers to the shocking mystery she just uncovered about her family. What she doesn't expect is for Bentley to ensnare her in her own story of becoming a controversial World War II spy and Cold War informer...

Recruited by the American Communist Party to spy on fascists at the outbreak of World War II, a young Bentley—code name Clever Girl—finds she has an unexpected gift for espionage. But after falling desperately in love with her handler, Elizabeth makes another surprise discovery when she learns he is actually a Russian spy. Together, they will build the largest Soviet spy network in America and Elizabeth will become its uncrowned Red Spy Queen. However, once the war ends and the U.S. and U.S.S.R. become embroiled in the Cold War, it is Elizabeth who will dangerously clash with the NKVD, the brutal Soviet espionage agency.

As Catherine listens to Elizabeth's harrowing tale, she discovers that the women's lives are linked in shocking ways. Faced with the idea that her entire existence is based on a lie, Catherine realizes that only Elizabeth Bentley can tell her what the truth really is.

The first book I read of **KRISTIN HARMEL** was The Winemaker's Wife (\$22.99 trade paperback, \$12.99 paperback) because it was a tale set in the 1940s about a champagne house in France trying to survive under German occupation, flipping to the current day connection of 2019. I thoroughly enjoyed it and went on to read four more of her books. Just released is The Forest of Vanishing Stars (\$24.99) which tells the story of a young woman who uses her knowledge of the wilderness to help Jewish refugees escape the Nazis. It's quite an amazing story, inspired by true events, showing the fortitude and determination of people who survive under horrible odds. Some descriptions of the conditions faced by these "forest refuges" are heart warming as well as heartbreaking.

Here is a short description of the plot: After being stolen from her wealthy German parents and raised in the unforgiving wilderness of eastern Europe, a young woman finds herself alone in 1941 after her kidnapper dies. Her solitary existence is interrupted, however, when she happens upon a group of Jews fleeing the Nazi terror. Stunned to learn what's happening in the outside world, she vows to teach the group all she can about surviving in the forest—and in turn, they teach her some surprising lessons about opening her heart after years of isolation. But when she is betrayed and escapes into a German-occupied village, her past and present come together in a shocking collision that could change everything.

This will come as a surprise to you, but I also enjoy reading almost any mystery to do with bookstores. So when I picked up The Bookseller's Secret (\$23.99) by **MICHELLE GABLE** and saw that it's a fictional account of Nancy Mitford, who, while working at a bookshop in London during the war, may have written a little something that has been lost to time...well, I just knew I had to read it. Reading fictionalized accounts of real people has always been fun for me. I'm not often in the mood to read an entire biography but, mixed in with a story, even if the truth is stretched a little, I certainly don't mind getting into it. And this one worked well, leavened with a little fiction as it was.

Here is the blurb that caught my fancy: Aristocrat, author, bookseller, WWII spy—a thrilling novel about real-life literary icon Nancy Mitford from the New York Times bestselling author of A Paris Apartment (\$22.50). (Which I also read and liked).

In 1942, London, Nancy Mitford is worried about more than air raids and German spies. Still recovering from a devastating loss, the once sparkling Bright Young Thing is estranged from her husband, her allowance has been cut, and she's given up her writing career. On top of this, her five beautiful but infamous sisters continue making headlines with their controversial politics.

Eager for distraction and desperate for income, Nancy jumps at the chance to manage the Heywood Hill bookshop while the owner is away at war. Between the shop's brisk business and the literary salons she hosts for her eccentric friends, Nancy's life seems on the upswing. But when a mysterious French officer insists that she has a story to tell, Nancy must decide if picking up the pen again and revealing all is worth the price she might be forced to pay.

Eighty years later, Heywood Hill is abuzz with the hunt for a lost wartime manuscript written by Nancy Mitford. For one woman desperately in need of a change, the search will reveal not only a new side to Nancy, but an even more surprising link between the past and present.

The first thing I thought of as I started reading Deadly Summer Nights (\$10.99) by **VICKI DELANY** was "put on your dancing shoes and let's get down to a little Dirty Dancing. The movie, that is!" It's the first in a new series set in 1953 at Haggerman's Catskills Resort and if you've seen the movie, you will know exactly what the place looks like. Unfortunately for Elizabeth Grady, and her mother Olivia, who owns the resort, they have to deal with a dead body. Lots of fun, lots of interesting, quirky characters, and you can guess there is going to be a love-interest simmering. The story takes you back to a simpler, gentler time, well, as long as you don't count the "communist scare." Read that as no technology, indoor and outdoor activities for all, evening entertainment, cocktails, and dancing. Lots of dancing! And, if you want to make a phone call, you pick up the phone and ask the switchboard operator to connect you. Simple. Just a joy to read.

Here is the blurb: It's the summer of 1953, and Elizabeth Grady is settling into Haggerman's Catskills Resort. As a vacation getaway, Haggerman's is ideal, and although Elizabeth's ostentatious but well-meaning mother is new to running the resort, Elizabeth is eager to help her organize the guests and the entertainment acts. But Elizabeth will have to resort to untested abilities if she wants to save her mother's business. When a reclusive guest is found dead in a lake on the grounds, and a copy of The Communist Manifesto is found in his cabin, the local police chief is convinced that the man was a Russian spy. But Elizabeth isn't so sure, and with the fate of the resort hanging in the balance, she'll need to dodge red herrings, withstand the Red Scare, and catch a killer red-handed.

Hardbacks

ALBERT, SUSAN W china HEMLOCK (#28) (\$34.95) Herbalist China Bayles' latest adventure takes her to the mountains of North Carolina, where her friend Dorothea Harper serves as the director and curator of the Hemlock House Library, a priceless collection of rare gardening books housed in a haunted mountainside mansion that once belonged to Sunny Carswell, a reclusive heiress. But the most valuable book—A Curious Herbal, created by Elizabeth Blackwell in the 1730s—is missing and Dorothea is under suspicion. China's search for the thief takes on a new urgency when she discovers Miss Carswell's bookseller, the victim of an attempted murder. Is his shooting connected with the theft?

ALSTERDAL, TOVE high coast WE KNOW YOU REMEMBER (#1) (\$35.99) It's been more than twenty years since Olof Hagström left home. Returning to his family's house, he knows instantly that

something is amiss. The front door key, hidden under a familiar stone, is still there. Inside, there's a panicked dog, a terrible stench, water pooling on the floor: the father Olaf has not seen or spoken to in decades is dead in the bathroom shower. For police detective Eira Sjödin, the investigation of this suspicious death resurrects long-forgotten nightmares. She was only nine when Olof Hagström, then fourteen, was found guilty of raping and murdering a local girl. The case left a mark on the town's collective memory—a wound that never quite healed—and tinged Eira's childhood with fear. Too young to be sentenced, Olof was sent to a youth home and exiled from his family. He was never seen in the town again. Until now.

ANDERSON, LIN macleod KILLING TIDE (#16) (\$37.99) After a fierce storm hits Scotland, a mysterious cargo ship is swept ashore in the Orkney Isles. Boarding the vessel uncovers three bodies, recently deceased and in violent circumstances. Forensic scientist Dr Rhona MacLeod's study of the crime scene suggests that a sinister game was being played on board, but who were the hunters? And who the hunted? Meanwhile in Glasgow DS Michael McNab is called to a horrific incident where a young woman has been set on fire. Or did she spark the flames herself?

BALSON, RONALD H taggart DEFENDING BRITTA STEIN (#6) (\$37.99) Chicago, 2018: Ole Henryks, a popular restaurateur, is set to be honored by the Danish/American Association for his many civic and charitable contributions. Frequently appearing on local TV, he is well known for his actions in Nazi-occupied Denmark during World War II—most consider him a hero. Britta Stein, however, does not. The ninety-year-old Chicago woman levels public accusations against Henryks by spray-painting “Coward,” “Traitor,” “Collaborator,” and “War Criminal” on the walls of his restaurant. Mrs. Stein is ultimately taken into custody and charged with criminal defacement of property. She also becomes the target of a bitter lawsuit filed by Henryks and his son, accusing her of defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Attorney Catherine Lockhart, though hesitant at first, agrees to take up Mrs. Stein's defense. With the help of her investigator husband, Liam Taggart, Lockhart must reach back into wartime Denmark and locate evidence that proves Mrs. Stein's innocence.

BENN, JAMES R billy boyle ROAD OF BONES (#16) (\$35.95) It's September 1944, and tensions are already high between the American and Russian allies when two intelligence agents—one Soviet, one American—are found dead at Poltava, one of the Ukrainian bases. Billy is brought in to investigate, and this time he's paired, at the insistence of the Soviets, with a KGB agent who has his own political and personal agenda. In the course of an investigation that quickly spirals out of control, Billy is aided by the Night Witches, a daring regiment of young Soviet women flying at night at very low altitudes, bombing hundreds of German installations. It's a turning point in the war, and allied efforts hang by a thread. Unless Billy and his KGB partner can solve the murders in an atmosphere of mutual distrust, Operation Frantic is doomed.

BISHOP, D V aldo CITY OF VENGEANCE (#1) (\$33.99) Florence. Winter, 1536. A prominent Jewish moneylender is murdered in his home, a death with wide implications in a city powered by immense wealth. Cesare Aldo, a former soldier and now an officer of the Renaissance city's most feared criminal court, is given four days to solve the murder: catch the killer before the feast of Epiphany—or suffer the consequences. During his investigations Aldo uncovers a plot to overthrow the volatile ruler of Florence, Alessandro de' Medici. If the Duke falls, it will endanger the whole city. But a rival officer of the court is determined to expose details about Aldo's private life that could lead to his ruin. Can Aldo stop the conspiracy before anyone else dies, or will his own secrets destroy him first?

BLACK, LAURA GAIL antique MURDER BY THE BOOKEND (#2) (\$35.99) The quaint warehouse district of Hokes Folly, NC, is hopping despite the drizzly November chill. The occasion? The mountain town's beloved antiquarian bookstore, Twice Upon a Time, is throwing a bash for its grand reopening. But bookseller Jenna Quinn's peace of mind is shattered when the local library's Director of Antique Books turns up dead in the parking lot—his head bashed in by

a glittering pair of vintage glass bookends. The only witness? The victim's dog, who flees the scene leaving a trail of bloody footprints behind. If only dogs could speak...

BRADBY, TOM henderson TRIPLE CROSS (#3) (\$39.95) Attempting to rebuild her shattered life in the South of France, former MI6 operative Kate Henderson receives an unexpected and most unwelcome visit from an old adversary: the UK Prime Minister. He has an extraordinary story to tell—and he needs her help. A Russian agent has come forward with news that the PM has been the victim of the greatest misinformation play in the history of MI6. It's run out of a special KGB unit that exists for one purpose alone: to process the intelligence from 'Agent Dante', a mole right at the heart of MI6 in London. Against her better judgement, Kate is forced back into the fray in a top-secret, deeply flawed and dangerous investigation. But now she's damaged goods. Her one-time allies no longer trust her. And neither do her enemies. With the stakes this high, can the truth ever come out? Or is the cost of uncovering it a price that no one, least of all Kate, can afford to pay?

CARTER, A F YARDS (\$34.95) Git O'Rourke is from the wrong side of the tracks—even if, in the depressed Rust Belt town of Baxter, it's not always clear where that designation begins. A single mother, she works hard to support her daughter Charlie, but still finds time to cut loose every once in a while...which is exactly how she ends up in a hotel room with a strange man passed out on heroin, and how she comes to possess the bag of money and guns that he left open as he got his fix. When the dead body is discovered at the Skyview Motor Court, a bullet through its forehead, officer Delia Mariola is one of the first on the scene. She recognizes the victim and knows he's connected to the local mob, but the crime scene doesn't exactly resemble their typical hit. Instead, all signs point to a pick-up gone wrong. Which means that all signs point to Git. Told from multiple points of view, including these two strong women.

CLEEVES, ANN two rivers HERON'S CRY (#2) (\$42.99 hardcover, \$25.99 trade paperback) Author and creator of the Shetland and Vera series, returns to North Devon in this, the second book in the Two Rivers series featuring Detective Matthew Venn, following The Long Call (#1) (\$19.99).

CLEMENTS, RORY PRINCE AND A SPY (\$35.95) Two old friends meeting in a remote castle in Sweden. They are cousins. One is Prince George, brother of the king of England, and the other Prince Philipp von Hesse, a close friend of Adolf Hitler and a committed Nazi. Days later Prince George is killed in a plane crash and the country weeps, but not everyone believes that it was an accident. When FDR, who happens to be a good friend of the prince, hears the tragic news, he wants to find out exactly what happened. The American OSS doesn't believe the story that MI5 are peddling. The situation is delicate. Professor Tom Wilde, Cambridge don, is called in to uncover the truth—but what he discovers is far more than he bargained for.

CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM & LOUISE PENNY STATE OF TERROR (\$39.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) After a tumultuous period in American politics, a new administration has just been sworn in, and to everyone's surprise the president chooses a political enemy for the vital position of secretary of state. There is no love lost between the president of the United States and Ellen Adams, his new secretary of state. But it's a canny move on the part of the president. With this appointment, he silences one of his harshest critics, since taking the job means Adams must step down as head of her multinational media conglomerate. As the new president addresses Congress for the first time, with Secretary Adams in attendance, Anahita Dahir, a young foreign service officer (FSO) on the Pakistan desk at the State Department, receives a baffling text from an anonymous source. Too late, she realizes the message was a hastily coded warning. What begins as a series of apparent terrorist attacks is revealed to be the beginning of an international chess game involving the volatile and Byzantine politics of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran; the race to develop nuclear weapons in the region; the Russian mob; a burgeoning rogue terrorist organization; and an American government set back on its heels in the international arena.

COLLINS, MEGAN FAMILY PLOT (\$36) At twenty-six, Dahlia Lighthouse is haunted by her upbringing. Raised in a secluded island mansion deep in the woods and kept isolated by her true crime-obsessed parents, she is unable to move beyond the disappearance of her twin brother, Andy, when they were sixteen. After several years away and following her father's death, Dahlia returns to the house, where the family makes a gruesome discovery: buried in their father's plot is another body—Andy's, his skull split open with an ax. Dahlia is quick to blame Andy's murder on the serial killer who terrorized the island for decades, while the rest of her family reacts to the revelation in unsettling ways. As Dahlia grapples with her own grief and horror, she realizes that her eccentric family, and the mansion itself, may hold the answers to what happened to her twin

GRAY, ALEX lorimer BEFORE THE STORM (#18) (\$32.99) Inspector Daniel Kohi of the Zimbabwean police force returns home one night to find his worst nightmare has been realised. His family dead, his house destroyed, and in fear for his life, he is forced to flee the country he loves. Far away in Glasgow, DSI William Lorimer has his hands full. Christmas is approaching, the city is bustling, and whilst the homicide rate has been relatively low, something much darker is brewing. Counter-Terrorism have got wind of a plot, here in Lorimer's native city, to carry out an unspeakable atrocity on Christmas Eve. They need someone with local knowledge to help them root it out and who better than the head of the Scottish Major Incidents Team. But the investigation is complicated by a spate of local murders, and by the rumours that someone is passing information to criminal organisations from inside the police force. Soon Lorimer finds himself in desperate need of assistance. Then he meets an extraordinary man - a refugee from Zimbabwe whose investigative skills are a match for Lorimer's own.

HAWKINS, PAULA SLOW FIRE BURNING (\$35) By the author of *Girl on the Train* (\$17.95), whose latest novel "is better still: shocking, moving, full of heart—a deeply layered and intricately plotted thriller that explores how ordinary people can turn to murder. . . . Laced with humour and packed with moments of sheer horror... a writer at the height of her powers." —*The Guardian*

JAKUBOWSKI, MAXIM ed DAGGERS DRAWN (\$33.95) Nineteen Crime Writers' Association Dagger Award-winning stories, from the likes of **Ian Rankin, Jeffery Deaver, John Connolly, Denise Mina, and John Harvey.**

JOHNSON, CRAIG walt DAUGHTER OF THE MORNING STAR (#17) (\$37) When Tribal Police Chief Lolo Long's niece Jaya begins receiving death threats, she calls on Absaroka County Sheriff Walt Longmire along with Henry Standing Bear as lethal backup. Jaya "Longshot" Long is the phenom of the Lame Deer Lady Stars High School basketball team and is following in the steps of her older sister, who disappeared a year previously, a victim of the scourge of missing Native Woman in Indian Country. Lolo hopes that having Longmire involved might draw some public attention to the girl's plight, but with this maneuver she also inadvertently places the good sheriff in a one-on-one with the deadliest adversary he has ever faced in both this world and the next.

LAURIE, VICTORIA cat gilley COACHED IN THE ACT (#3) (\$35) Wild rumors are swirling in the Hamptons over "Twelve Angry Men," a ruthlessly revealing one-woman show written and performed by Yelena Galanis. The well-known socialite dated her way through some of the East End's most eligible bachelors, and now she's sparing few details while spilling their humiliating secrets to scandalized crowds. It's a mean-spirited spectacle that urges Cat to make a beeline for the theater exit during the first act—only to later discover that Yelena was found stabbed to death during intermission that same evening... When another violent death occurs, Cat teams up with her sidekick, Gilley, to track down Yelena's list of rejected lovers and identify the vengeful culprit stalking around the seaside community, lingering frighteningly close to home

LIBRARY, BRITISH LITERARY CHRISTMAS (\$27.95) Enjoy a Christmas Day as described by **Samuel Pepys, Anthony Trollope, George Eliot, or Nancy Mitford.** Venture out into the snow in the company of **Jane Austen, Henry James, and Dickens's Mr. Pick-**

wick. Entertain the children with the seasonal tales of **Dylan Thomas, Kenneth Grahame, and Oscar Wilde.**

MINA, DENISE RIZZIO (\$27.95) On the evening of March 9th, 1566, David Rizzio, the private secretary of Mary, Queen of Scots, was brutally murdered. Dragged from the chamber of the heavily pregnant Mary, Rizzio was stabbed fifty-six times by a party of assassins. This novella dramatises the events that led up to that night, telling the infamous story as it has never been told before. A dark tale of sex, secrets and lies, a shocking historical murder looked at through a modern lens—and explores the lengths that men and women will go to in their search for love and power.

MIZUSHIMA, MARGARET k9 STRIKING RANGE (#7) (\$36.99) He was suspect number one—the man who tried to kill Deputy Mattie Cobb and may have killed her father thirty years earlier. But when Mattie and cold case detective Jim Hauck reach the Colorado state prison where they will finally get to interview him, he's found dead in his cell. There's only one clue: a map leading to Timber Creek and rugged Redstone Ridge. Exploring the map's clue, Mattie and Robo are called to help investigate the death of a young woman found in a campground filled with elk hunters. Identification of the deceased points to her having recently given birth, but the infant is nowhere to be found. As a deadly storm descends upon the mountains, covering everything with a layer of ice and snow, Mattie and her team search for the missing newborn.

MOORE, TAYLOR kohl DOWN RANGE (\$34.99) DEA agent Garrett Kohl fights to protect his home on the Texas High Plains when a vicious criminal enterprise comes after his family. The once-peaceful ranching community he loves is under attack by a band of criminals who have infiltrated law enforcement and corrupted local businesses and are now terrorizing Kohl's own family. Hoping to prevent bloodshed, Kohl tries to resolve matters peacefully. But when the group strikes first, he has no choice but to go on the attack. Unfortunately for the crew of criminals, Garrett Kohl, besides being an elite undercover officer for the DEA, is a battle-hardened Green Beret who spent the better part of his career hunting terrorists. Although outnumbered and outgunned, Kohl knows the wild and forsaken Llano Estacado region of Texas better than anyone. And like so many trespassers before them, these murderers will find out the hard way that the only thing tougher than this land is the people who call it home.

NEVILLE, STUART HOUSE OF ASHES (\$35.95) Sara Keane's husband, Damien, has uprooted them from England and moved them to his native Northern Ireland for a "fresh start" in the wake of her nervous breakdown. Sara, who knows no one in Northern Ireland, is jobless, carless, friendless—all but a prisoner in her own house.

When a blood-soaked old woman beats on the door, insisting the house is hers before being bundled back to her care facility, Sara begins to understand the house has a terrible history her husband never intended for her to discover. As the two women form a bond over their shared traumas, Sara finds the strength to stand up to her abuser, and Mary—silent for six decades—is finally ready to tell her story . . .

OSMAN, RICHARD thursday MAN WHO DIED TWICE (#2) (\$35) Elizabeth, Joyce, Ron and Ibrahim—the Thursday Murder Club—are still riding high off their recent real-life murder case and are looking forward to a bit of peace and quiet at Cooper's Chase, their posh retirement village. But they are out of luck. An unexpected visitor—an old pal of Elizabeth's (or perhaps more than just a pal?)—arrives, desperate for her help. He has been accused of stealing diamonds worth millions from the wrong men and he's seriously on the lam. Then, as night follows day, the first body is found. But not the last. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ron and Ibrahim are up against a ruthless murderer who wouldn't bat an eyelid at knocking off four septuagenarians. Can our four friends catch the killer before the killer catches them? And if they find the diamonds, too? Well, wouldn't that be a bonus? You should never put anything beyond the Thursday Murder Club.

PARKER, ROBERT B stone STONES THROW (#20) (\$37) By **MIKE LUPICA.**

The town of Paradise receives a tragic shock when the mayor is discovered dead, his body lying in a shallow grave on a property on the

lake. It's ostensibly suicide, but Jesse's has his doubts . . . especially because the piece of land where the man was found is the subject of a contentious and dodgy land deal. Two powerful moguls are fighting over the right to buy and develop the prime piece of real estate, and one of them has brought in a hired gun, an old adversary of Jesse's: Wilson Cromartie, aka Crow. Meanwhile, the town council is debating if they want to sacrifice Paradise's stately character for the economic boost of a glitzy new development. Tempers are running hot, and as the deaths begin to mount, it's increasingly clear that the mayor may have standing in the wrong person's way.

PARRIS, S J giordano bruno TREACHERY (#4) (\$39.95) August, 1585. A relentless enemy. A treacherous conspiracy. Elizabethan England is on the brink of war. Sir Francis Drake is preparing to launch a daring expedition against the Spanish when a murder aboard his ship changes everything. Giordano Bruno agrees to hunt the killer down, only to find that more than one deadly plot is brewing in Plymouth's murky underworld. And as he tracks a murderer through its dangerous streets, he uncovers a conspiracy that threatens the future of England itself.

PARRIS, S J giordano bruno CONSPIRACY (#5) (\$39.95) December 1585: King Henry III of France is the last of his line. He has appointed a Protestant as his successor, which has caused a three-way war in his country. As a result, the king is in mortal fear of a coup being orchestrated by the ultra-conservative Catholic League. Radical philosopher, ex-monk and spy Giordano Bruno, forced to return to Paris, is called upon by King Henry to unearth the motivation behind several mysterious but linked deaths. Each victim is connected to a larger plot to manipulate the royal succession; what they knew and who killed them is a mystery to be solved. Meanwhile, Bruno makes an uneasy alliance with Charles Paget, a key figure in the community of English Catholics who tried to assassinate Queen Elizabeth. When Bruno is implicated in the death of Leonie, a member of the Queen Mother's "Flying Squadron," he is forced to call on Paget and his connections for help—and finds that it comes with a price, involving an old enemy.

PEACE, DAVID japan TOKYO REDUX (#3) (\$32.95) A novel about one of history's great unsolved mysteries, by one of Britain's most original writers. 'Typically brilliant ... A murder mystery set in 1949 Japan during the US occupation it has all of Peace's usual flair for language and characterization.'—**Adrian McKinty**, author of the Sean Duffy series.

PERRY, ANNE elena standish DARKER REALITY (#3) (\$37) On her first trip to Washington, D.C., Elena Standish finally gets to visit her American mother's wealthy parents and their magnificent home. Elena's grandparents are marking a milestone anniversary by throwing an elaborate party with their influential friends. But the festivities come to a sudden and tragic end when one of the guests, Lila Worth, is run over by a car in the driveway outside. Elena believes Lila was trying to tell her something before her death, and when a call from her employer back home, MI6, confirms that Lila was a British spy, Elena pairs with a fellow agent to find out what vital information the young woman had in her possession. Soon an arrest is made in Lila's murder, and to Elena's horror, the accused is none other than her own grandfather!

PORTER, HENRY samson OLD ENEMY (#3) (\$37.50) Paul Samson is living in London and picking up some extra work for a private security company when he is almost killed by a thuggish assassin while tailing a mysterious and gifted young employee of a powerful environmental NGO. The murder of legendary spy Robert Harland, the poisoning of billionaire philanthropist Denis Hisami with a neurotoxin in the United States House of Representatives, and a second attempt on Samson's own life send him on the run to Estonia to figure out who is trying to kill him, and why. It quickly becomes clear that Denis and Harland were running an investigation into a spectral former Stasi agent and her sprawling network of assets across industry and government in the US and the UK when they were attacked. Samson must tap into their research and expose the spymaster before any more people are killed or agencies compromised.

RICHMOND, MICHELLE WONDER TEST (\$37.50) Escaping New York City and the espionage case that made her question everything, recently widowed FBI Agent Lina Connerly returns home to sell the house she has inherited in tony Greenfield, California. With her teenage son Rory, Lina hopes to reassemble her life, re-evaluate her career, and find a clear way forward. Adrift and battling insomnia, she discovers that her father's sleepy hometown has been transformed into a Silicon Valley suburb on steroids, obsessed with an annual exam called The Wonder Test. Would parents really put the well-being of their children at risk for advancement and prestige?

ROWE, ROSEMARY DREADFUL DESTINY (#19) (\$39.99) April, CE 194. The tensions in the civil-war-torn Empire have come to Glevum now. Libertus's patron, Marcus Septimus, has received a letter from Druscilla Livia, a widowed cousin of his wife, seeking his protection. She has received an offer of marriage from a powerful Roman Senator, Hortius Valens, a man of cruel and unusual tastes, and she is in no position to refuse. She has run away . . . with Hortius in hot pursuit. This puts Marcus in a dangerous dilemma. If he accepts Druscilla as his ward and prevents the wedding, he offends not only her prospective groom, but also the Provincial Governor to whom Hortius is related. But if he returns Druscilla to the Senator, he offends another of her kinswomen – the Empress herself. Once again, Marcus turns to Libertus for help.

RUSSELL, CRAIG HYDE (\$36) Winner of the 2021 McIlvanney Prize for Best Crime Novel of the Year. From the author of the Jan Fabel series of thrillers and the Lennox series of noir mysteries, a "stunning gothic reimagining" of the Jekyll and Hyde story in which Captain Edward Hyde, chief detective of Victorian Edinburgh, investigates a gruesome murder that may unmask his own darkest secret **ST JAMES, DOROTHY bookroom PERFECT BIND (#2) (\$35)** Tru Beckett succeeded in building a secret book room in her now bookless library—**Broken Spine (#1)** (\$10.99)—where book lovers from lovely Cypress, South Carolina, can rejoice in the printed word. Now she's working hard to maintain the little library downstairs while keeping her "real job" upstairs in the bookless technology center. The last thing she needs is a mysterious vandal who seems intent on breaking into her secret book-filled sanctuary and creating chaos. The nasty interloper doesn't steal anything, but brutalizes the books, damaging them and knocking them off shelves. A patron of the secret book room tells Tru that there have been creepy goings-on at the library for years, especially in the basement where the secret book room is located. He's heard rumors of a poltergeist that haunts the library, determined to scare off readers. Tru is certain it's hogwash, but she's at a loss to think of who might be vandalizing the beautiful books she fought so hard to protect. And when a dead body shows up right behind the library, Tru is certain that it's not a ghost but a cold-blooded killer that she and her trusty tabby Dewey Decimal will need to uncover.

TOEWS, MIRIAM FIGHT NIGHT (\$29.95) Fight Night is told in the unforgettable voice of Swiv, a nine-year-old living in Toronto with her pregnant mother, who is raising Swiv while caring for her own elderly, frail, yet extraordinarily lively mother. When Swiv is expelled from school, Grandma takes on the role of teacher and gives her the task of writing to Swiv's absent father about life in the household during the last trimester of the pregnancy. In turn, Swiv gives Grandma an assignment: to write a letter to "Gord," her unborn grandchild (and Swiv's soon-to-be brother or sister). "You're a small thing," Grandma writes to Gord, "and you must learn to fight."

TOWLES, AMOR LINCOLN HIGHWAY (\$40) In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the

opposite direction—to the City of New York. Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view...By the author of the fabulous *A Gentleman in Moscow* (\$24.)

WOODWARD, BOB PERIL (\$39.99) The transition from President Donald J. Trump to President Joseph R. Biden Jr. stands as one of the most dangerous periods in American history. But as the authors reveal for the first time, it was far more than just a domestic political crisis. They interviewed more than 200 people at the center of the turmoil, resulting in more than 6,000 pages of transcripts—and a spell-binding and definitive portrait of a nation on the brink. This classic study of Washington takes readers deep inside the Trump White House, the Biden White House, the 2020 campaign, and the Pentagon and Congress, with vivid, eyewitness accounts of what really happened.

Paperbacks

ALBERT, SUSAN DARLING DAHLIAS AND THE VOODOO LILY (\$23.99) Spring, 1935 finds the little Alabama town of Darling excited about their new local radio station, WDAR. But there are problems brewing at the newspaper, where a trio of new hires causes headaches for editor Charlie Dickens. That's not the worst of it, though, as the Dahlias discover when the newest resident at Bessie Bloodworth's Magnolia Manor is found dead. She had overindulged in a large and very rich chocolate cake—but was something else baked into that cake? If so, one of the Dahlias is likely to find herself at the top of Sheriff Buddy Norris' suspect list. That would give Darling something to gossip about!

ALEXANDER, REBECCA SHROUD OF LEAVES (#2) (\$19.95) Archaeologist Sage Westfield has her first forensics case: investigating the murder of a teenage girl. Hidden by holly leaves, the girl's body has been discovered on the grounds of a stately home, where another teenage girl went missing twenty years ago—but her body was never found. The police suspect the reclusive owner, Alistair Chorleigh, who was questioned but never charged. But when Sage investigates a nearby burial mound—and uncovers rumours of an ancient curse—she discovers the story of another mysterious disappearance over a hundred years ago. Sage will need both her modern forensics skills and her archaeological knowledge to unearth the devastating truth.

ALLINGHAM, MARGERY albert MYSTERY MILE (#2) (\$25) Albert Campion is sailing home when he saves the life of fellow passenger, Judge Crowdy Lobbett. Hunted by the notoriously deadly Sismister gang, it seems as though the judge's troubles have followed him from America. Determined to catch the infamous gang leader, Albert bundles the judge, along with his son Marlowe and beautiful daughter Isopel, to the manor at Mystery Mile, where he hopes to lure the villain out into the open. But the safe haven of Mystery Mile is soon invaded by danger, and when people start disappearing, the race to uncover the enigma of their enemy's true identity becomes ever more urgent. Published 1930.

ANDERSON, LIN macleod SPECIAL DEAD (#10) (\$18.99) When Mark is invited back to Leila's flat and ordered to strip, he thinks he's about to have the experience of his life. Waking later he finds Leila gone from his side. Keen to leave, he opens the wrong door and finds he's entered a nightmare; behind the swaying Barbie dolls that hang from the ceiling is the body of the girl he just had sex with. Rhona MacLeod's forensic investigation of the scene reveals the red plaited silk cord used to hang Leila to be a cingulum, a Wiccan artefact used in sex magick. Sketches of sexual partners hidden in the dolls provide a link to nine powerful men, but who are they? As the investigation continues, it looks increasingly likely that other witches will be targeted too.

ANDREWS, DONNA langslow GIFT OF THE MAGPIE (#28) (\$10.99) Meg's running Caerphilly's Helping Hands for the Holidays project, in which neighbors help each other with things they can't do

and can't afford to have done. Her hopes for a relatively peaceful (if busy) Christmas vanish when someone murders Harvey the Hoarder, whose house the Helping Hands were decluttering. Was there any truth to the rumor that he had something valuable hidden beneath all his junk? Was one of his friends, neighbors, or relatives greedy enough to murder him for the rumored treasure? And what about the magpie that has been bringing her family bits of tinsel and costume jewelry—does the bird's latest gift hold a clue to solving the crime? **BALDACCI, DAVID archer GAMBLING MAN (#2)** (\$22.99) The 1950s are on the horizon, and Aloysius Archer, the straight-talking World War II veteran fresh out of prison, is in dire need of a fresh start after a nearly fatal detour in Poca City. So Archer hops on a bus and begins the long journey out west to California, where rumor has it there is money to be made if you're hard-working, lucky, criminal—or all three. Archer's first stop is a P.I. office where he is hoping to apprentice with a legendary private eye and former FBI agent named Willie Dash. He lands the job, and immediately finds himself in the thick of a potential scandal: a blackmail case involving a wealthy well-connected politician running for mayor that soon spins into something even more sinister. As bodies begin falling, Archer and Dash must infiltrate the world of brothels, gambling dens, drug operations, and long-hidden secrets, descending into the rotten bones of a corrupt town that is selling itself as the promised land—but might actually be the road to perdition, and Archer's final resting place **BANVILLE, JOHN SNOW** (\$21.99) Detective Inspector St. John Strafford has been summoned to County Wexford to investigate a murder. A parish priest has been found dead in Ballyglass House, the family seat of the aristocratic, secretive Osborne family. The year is 1957 and the Catholic Church rules Ireland with an iron fist. Strafford—flinty, visibly Protestant and determined to identify the murderer—faces obstruction at every turn, from the heavily accumulating snow to the culture of silence in the tight-knit community he begins to investigate. As he delves further, he learns the Osbornes are not at all what they seem. And when his own deputy goes missing, Strafford must work to unravel the ever-expanding mystery before the community's secrets, like the snowfall itself, threaten to obliterate everything.

BAZELON, LARA GOOD MOTHER (\$21.99) When a soldier is found stabbed through the heart at a US Army base, there is no doubt that his wife, Luz, is to blame. But was it an act of self-defense? An attempt to save her infant daughter? Or the cold-blooded murder of an innocent man? Ambitious public defender Abby is determined to win at all costs. As a new mother herself, she wants to keep Luz out of prison and with her daughter. But when the surprises stack up and shocking new evidence emerges, Abby realizes the task proves far more difficult than she suspected and will require a terrible sacrifice.

BERENSON, LAURIEN travis HOWLOWEEN MURDER (#26) (\$11.99) As the town of Greenwich, Connecticut, counts down to a spooky celebration on October 31st, a horrifying murder leaves Melanie Travis pawing for clues in a hair-raising game of trick-or-treat . . .

BILLINGHAM, MARK thorne CRY BABY (#17) (\$17.99) It's 1996. Detective Sergeant Tom Thorne is a haunted man. Haunted by the moment he ignored his instinct about a suspect, by the horrific crime that followed and by the memories that come day and night, in sunshine and shadow. So when seven-year-old Kieron Coyne goes missing while playing in the woods with his best friend, Thorne vows he will not make the same mistake again. Cannot. The solitary witness. The strange neighbour. The friendly teacher. All are in Thorne's sights. This case will be the making of him . . . or the breaking.

BLACKBURN, MAGGIE beach LITTLE BOOKSHOP OF MURDER (#1) (\$22.99) Summer Merriweather's career as a Shakespeare professor hangs by a bookbinder's thread. Academic life at her Virginia university is a viper's pit, so Summer spends her summer in England, researching a scholarly paper that, with any luck, will finally get her published, impress the Dean, and save her job. But her English idyll ends when her mother, Hildy, shuffles off her mortal coil from an apparent heart attack. Returning to Brigid's Island, NC, for the funeral, Summer is impatient to settle the estate, sell her mom's embarrassing romance-themed bookstore, Beach Reads, and go

home. But as she drops by Beach Reads, Summer finds threatening notes addressed to Hildy: "Sell the bookstore or die."

CAMILLERI, ANDREA montalbano RICCARDINO (#28) (\$23) Montalbano receives an early-morning phone call, but this time it's not Catarella announcing a murder, but a man called Riccardino who's dialed a wrong number and asks him when he'll be arriving at the meeting. Montalbano, in irritation, says: "In ten minutes." Shortly after, he gets another call, this one announcing the customary murder. A man has been shot and killed outside a bar in front of his three friends. It turns out to be the same man who called him. Thus begins an intricate investigation further complicated by phone calls from "the Author" in tour de force of metafiction and Montalbano's last case.

CHAPMAN, JULIA dales DATE WITH DEATH (#1) (\$19.99) Samson O'Brien has been dismissed from the police force and returns to his hometown of Bruncliffe in the Yorkshire Dales to set up the Dales Detective Agency while he fights to clear his name. Delilah Metcalfe, meanwhile, is struggling to keep her business, the Dales Dating Agency, afloat—as well as trying to control her wayward Weimaraner dog, Tolpuddle. Then when Samson gets his first case, investigating the supposed suicide of a local man, things take an unexpected turn, and soon he discovers a trail of deaths that lead back to the door of Delilah's agency.

CHILD, LEE ed. BEST MYSTERY STORIES OF THE YEAR 2021 (\$22.95) The twenty most suspenseful, most confounding, and most mysterious short stories from the past year, collected by Lee Child. Includes stories by Alison Gaylin, David Morrell, James Lee Burke, Joyce Carol Oates, Martin Edwards, Sara Paretsky, Stephen King, Sue Grafton—a with a new, posthumously-published work!—and many others.

CHILDS, LAURA cackleberry EGG SHOOTERS (#9) (\$10.99) Suzanne Dietz, co-owner of the Cackleberry Club Café, is visiting her fiancé, Dr. Sam Hazelet, when a masked gunman bursts into the emergency room. He shoots two people and would probably have done more damage had Suzanne not brained him with a thermos full of chili. Still, the gunman manages to escape. Now the ladies of the Cackleberry Club are determined to find the killer before he finds them.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA AUTOBIOGRAPHY (\$26.99) Back in print in the exclusive authorized edition, is the engaging and illuminating chronicle of the life of the "Queen of Mystery." Fans of Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple will want to read the compelling, authoritative account of one of the world's most influential and fascinating novelists, told in her own words and inimitable style. The *New York Times* said, "she brings the sense of wonder...to her extraordinary career."

CLEEVES, ANN shetland THIN AIR (#6) (\$19.99) A group of old university friends leave the bright lights of London and travel to Shetland to celebrate the marriage of one of their friends to a local. But late on the night of the wedding party, one of them, Eleanor, disappears—apparently into thin air. Detectives Jimmy Perez and Willow Reeves are dispatched to investigate. Now reissued with a new cover. Published 2014.

CLEEVES, ANN two rivers HERON'S CRY (#2) (\$25.99 trade paperback, \$42.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM & LOUISE PENNY STATE OF TERROR (\$39.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

COCO, NANCY candy-coated HERE COMES THE FUDGE (#9) (\$11.99) It's late spring on picturesque Mackinac Island, Michigan. Allie is prepping her Historic McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop for the start of the tourist season and her best friend Jenn's wedding. But when Jenn's fiancé Shane, a crime scene investigator on the island, misses a dinner date, the two friends go looking for him. Led by Allie's bichonpoo Mal into an alley, they come upon Shane standing over a body with a bloody knife in his hand. Shane won't say what's happened, just tells them to call 911. As the CSI is taken into custody by his colleagues, including Allie's beau Rex Manning, the fudge

maker vows to prove her friend's fiancé is not a killer—before the ceremony turns into a jailhouse wedding...

CONROY, VIVIAN stationery GLITTER END (#3) (\$12.99) Stationery shop owner Delta Douglas is finally settling into small-town life in Tundish, Montana. But with the tourist season drying up, she must find a way to draw in her stationery shop clientele. Well-known artist Tilly Tay is just the ticket—and her new miniature gold mining display is sure to be a hit attraction in town. But on the day of the grand reveal, Delta discovers a tiny prospector dead in the exhibit. That's when a body is found at the nearby motel, perfectly mirroring the miniature murder. Soon enough, Delta's artist guest is suspected of the crime and her shop is suddenly cast under a cloud of bad press. With her faithful Paper Posse at her side, Delta must pull no paper punches to crack the case and save Wanted's reputation before more trouble comes into the fold.

DAVIS, KRISTA pen & ink MURDER OUTSIDE THE LINES (#3) (\$21.95) With Halloween just around the corner, the fall colors in Georgetown are brilliant. As manager of the Color Me Read bookstore, colouring book creator Florrie Fox has arranged for psychic author Hilda Rattenhorst to read from Spooktacular Ghost Stories. But the celebrity medium arrives for the event in hysterics, insisting she just saw a bare foot sticking out of a rolled-up carpet in a nearby alley. Is someone trying to sweep murder under the rug? Florrie calls in her policeman beau, Sergeant Eric Jonquille, but the carpet corpse has disappeared without a trace. Includes a front and back cover for you to colour!

DELANY, VICKI catskill DEADLY SUMMER NIGHTS (#1) (\$10.99) It's the summer of 1953, and Elizabeth Grady is settling into Haggerman's Catskills Resort. As a vacation getaway, Haggerman's is ideal, and although Elizabeth's ostentatious but well-meaning mother is new to running the resort, Elizabeth is eager to help her organize the guests and the entertainment acts. But Elizabeth will have to resort to untested abilities if she wants to save her mother's business. When a reclusive guest is found dead in a lake on the grounds, and a copy of The Communist Manifesto is found in his cabin, the local police chief is convinced that the man was a Russian spy. But Elizabeth isn't so sure, and with the fate of the resort hanging in the balance, she'll need to dodge red herrings, withstand the Red Scare, and catch a killer red-handed.

DOYLE/DECK, MARGIE SH OF BAKING STREET (\$55.95) A collection of this and that, essays, personal reflections and short stories, for fans of the dynamic duo Holmes and Watson, all to do with...baking!

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN sherlock GREAT ADVENTURES OF SH (\$16.99) From the strange case of 'The Red-Headed League' to the extraordinary tale of 'The Engineer's Thumb', Sherlock Holmes and his assistant Dr Watson grapple with treachery, murder, and ingenious crimes of all kinds. But no case is too challenging for the immortal detective's unique power of deduction. Written for ages 8 – 12.

DOYLE/MAJOR, TIM NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$19.95) May 1898: Sherlock Holmes investigates a murder stolen from a writer's research. Abigail Moone presents an unusual problem at Baker Street. She is a writer of mystery stories under a male pseudonym and gets her ideas following real people and imagining how she might kill them and get away with it. It's made her very successful, until her latest "victim" dies, apparently of the poison method she meticulously planned in her notebook. Abigail insists she is not responsible, and that someone is trying to frame her for his death. With the evidence stacking up against her, she begs Holmes to prove her innocence...

EVERETT, PERCIVAL TREES (\$22) When a pair of detectives from the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation arrive to investigate a series of brutal murders in the rural town of Money, Mississippi, they meet expected resistance from the local sheriff, his deputy, the coroner, and a string of racist White townfolk. The murders present a puzzle, for at each crime scene there is a second dead body: that of a man who resembles Emmett Till. The detectives suspect that these are killings of retribution, but soon discover that eerily similar murders are taking place all over the country. Something truly strange is afoot.

As the bodies pile up, the MBI detectives seek answers from a local root doctor who has been documenting every lynching in the country for years, uncovering a history that refuses to be buried.

FALCONER, COLIN george ANGELS WEEP (#3) (\$17.99) Two women are snatched off the streets of London in one weekend. DI Charlie George and his team get to work. The lives of these young women—one of them a mother—a are on the line, and the clock is ticking. When they catch a lucky break from a CCTV camera, Charlie is sure they have their man. And that's when he gets his first surprise. Because nothing about this case is simple and not everyone is quite what they seem. Charlie's job is to find the missing women and get to the truth. But some people would rather the truth stays hidden—even when the bodies start to pile up...

FALLIS, TERRY mcIntock OPERATION ANGUS (#3) (\$22) The long-awaited follow-up to The Best Laid Plans (#1) (\$21.95) and The High Road (#2) (\$22.95). Angus McLintock, accidental Member of Parliament, has won re-election and is now the Minister of State for International Relations—or, in other words, he's the junior global affairs minister. In this new post, he and his trusty Chief of Staff, Daniel Addison, are in London to meet with their international counterparts to discuss the upcoming G8 Summit in Washington. The London meetings are all going to plan until Daniel receives a cryptic, late-night text, from a burner phone, directing him to a pub around the corner from their hotel. There is important information he needs to know, the mysterious texter says—but he must keep the meeting a secret and must come alone. Naturally, he immediately tells Angus, who of course tags along to the pub—just as reinforcement. The soon-to-be-retired MI6 agent who is waiting for Daniel is not pleased, but there are more pressing matters at hand: Chechen separatists are plotting to assassinate the Russian President—and it's going to happen when he's in Ottawa to meet with the Prime Minister, just weeks away. Angus and Daniel have to put a stop to it before it's too late. Naturally, no one in Ottawa will take them, or their top-secret intelligence, seriously, so they're on their own. In an instant, they are thrown into a race against the clock to uncover the Chechen sleeper cell, thwart their plans, and ultimately save the Russian President. Along the way, in classic Angus and Daniel style, they have to dodge bitter rivals, enraged protestors, and even a runaway Cessna. This is a madcap cloak-and-dagger adventure with humour and heart that will delight and entertain readers until the very last page.

FINCH, KAY bad luck cat BLACK CAT BREAKS A MIRROR (#5) (\$27.99) As the summer tourist season draws to a close in Lavender, Texas, Sabrina has invited her brother and nephews for the highly anticipated concert of Colt Jamison, whose hit song "Broken Mirror" is rising to the top of the Nashville charts. But their stay begins on a sour note when one of the boys stumbles upon the dead body of Jamison's former public relations manager—a man who'd long ago burned his bridges in town, leaving no shortage of suspects in the murder. As Sabrina is reluctantly drawn into the investigation, she's confronted with a country singer who may be harboring more than a few dark secrets, an overzealous fan club president who may be up to her ears in criminal activities, and someone leaving shards of broken mirrors scattered all over town. Just as Sabrina narrows the list of suspects and closes in on the culprit, she realizes that seven years of bad luck may be the least of her worries . . .

FITZEK, SEBASTIAN SEAT 7A (\$21.95) Psychiatrist Mats Krüger knows that his irrational fear of flying is just that—irrational. He knows that flying is nineteen times safer than driving. He also knows that if something does happen on a plane, the worst place to be is seat 7A. That's why on his first plane journey in 20 years—to be with his only daughter as she gives birth—he's booked seat 7A, so no one else can sit there. If no one is sat there, surely nothing will go wrong. But shortly after take-off, Mats receives a worrying phone call. The caller has kidnapped his daughter and will murder her—and her unborn child—unless Mats convinces the pilot to crash the plane, killing everyone on board. As the plane nears its destination, Mats must make an impossible choice and face the fact he might be the arbiter of his own worst fear.

FLUKE, JOANNE swensen CHRISTMAS CUPCAKE MURDER (#26) (\$12.99) As December turns Lake Eden, Minnesota, into the North Pole, the heat is on in Hannah Swensen's kitchen to honor two Christmas promises: baking irresistible holiday cupcakes and preventing an attempted murderer from succeeding the second time around! While Hannah speeds through a lengthy holiday checklist, drama in town grows like Santa's waistline on Christmas Eve. Her sister Andrea wants to stave off the blues by helping out at The Cookie Jar, Michelle's love life is becoming complicated, Lisa needs Hannah's advice, and Delores has a Christmas secret she's not willing to share. But nothing dampens the holiday mood more than the chilling mystery surrounding the man found near death in an abandoned storefront two doors down from Hannah's bakery...The befuddled John Doe can't recall a thing about himself—except for his unusual knowledge of restoring antique furniture. With a smattering of clues and barely enough time to frost Christmas cookies, Hannah must solve a deadly puzzle that could leave her dashing through the snow for her life!

FLYNN, VINCE mitch rapp ENEMY AT THE GATES (#20) (\$24.99) Mitch Rapp has worked for a number of presidents over his career, but Anthony Cook is unlike any he's encountered before. Cunning and autocratic, he feels no loyalty to America's institutions and is distrustful of the influence Rapp and CIA director Irene Kennedy have in Washington. Meanwhile, when Kennedy discovers evidence of a mole scouring the Agency's database for sensitive information on Nicholas Ward, the world's first trillionaire, she convinces Rapp to take a job protecting him. In doing so, he finds himself walking an impossible tightrope: Keep the man alive, but also use him as bait to uncover a traitor who has seemingly unlimited access to government secrets.

FRANCIS, FELIX ICED (\$22) Miles Pussett is a former steeplechase jockey. Now he gets his adrenalin rush from riding down the Cresta Run, a three-quarter-mile Swiss ice chute, head first, reaching speeds of up to eighty miles per hour. Finding himself in St Moritz during the same weekend as White Turf, when high-class horseracing takes place on the frozen lake, he gets talked into helping out with the horses. It is against his better judgement. Seven years before, Miles left horseracing behind and swore he would never return. When he discovers something suspicious is going on in the races, something that may have a profound impact on his future life, Miles begins a search for answers. But someone is adamant to stop—and they'll go to any lengths to do it . . .

GARDNER, LISA warren BEFORE SHE DISAPPEARED (#1) (\$12.99) Frankie Elkin is an average middle-aged woman, a recovering alcoholic with more regrets than belongings. But she spends her life doing what no one else will—searching for missing people the world has stopped looking for. When the police have given up, when the public no longer remembers, when the media has never paid attention, Frankie starts looking. A new case brings her to Mattapan, a Boston neighborhood with a rough reputation. She is searching for Angelique Bateau, a Haitian teenager who vanished from her high school months earlier. Resistance from the Boston PD and the victim's wary family tells Frankie she's on her own—and she soon learns she's asking questions someone doesn't want answered. But Frankie will stop at nothing to discover the truth, even if it means the next person to go missing could be her.

GRANGER, MIMI love is murder DEATH OF A RED-HOT RANCHER (#1) (\$10.99) Lizzie Hale may be the lucky owner of a successful romance bookshop, Love Under the Covers, but she's decidedly un-lucky in love. Though she's read almost every famous romance novelist, from Jane Austen to Nora Roberts, none have helped her figure out how to get—and keep—a man. But Lizzie has bigger problems to worry about. Like murder. When Brody Pierce, swoon-worthy ranch owner and resident bachelor, is found stabbed through the chest, hearts were heard breaking all over idyllic Tinker's Creek. But when Lizzie's aunt is implicated in the murder, she's determined to clear her name. Lizzie quickly realizes that Brody was a hunk with many hidden secrets, and she's soon leafing through a stack of suspects longer than Brody's list of lovers. With the killer still on the

loose, Lizzie will have to find the truth before this act of passion ignites a fire she can't put out.

GRAY, ALEX lorimer ONLY THE DEAD CAN TELL (#15) (\$17.99) When Dorothy Guildford is found stabbed to death in her home, all signs point to her husband, Peter. The forensic psychologist is convinced there's more to the case that meets the eye but Police Scotland are certain they have their man. While DC Kirsty Wilson searches for evidence that will put Peter away for good, she is shocked to discover a link with a vast human-trafficking operation that Detective Superintendent William Lorimer has been investigating for months. But before they can interrogate him, Peter is brutally attacked. With one person dead and another barely hanging on, the clock is ticking for DC Wilson and DSI Lorimer.

GREANEY, MARK gray man GRAY MAN (#1) (\$16) To those who lurk in the shadows, he's known as the Gray Man. He is a legend in the covert realm, moving silently from job to job, accomplishing the impossible and then fading away. And he always hits his target. Always. But there are forces more lethal than Gentry in the world. Forces like money. And power. And there are men who hold these as the only currency worth fighting for. And in their eyes, Gentry has just outlived his usefulness. But Court Gentry is going to prove that, for him, there's no gray area between killing for a living and killing to stay alive. Originally published in 2009.

GREGORY, LENA psychic GRAVE CONSEQUENCES (#5) (\$26.50) When stories begin circulating of a centuries-old ghost haunting the Bay Island lighthouse, Cass is caught up in mystical happenings of her own, with countless voices from the beyond all clamoring for her attention with dire warnings. But before she has a chance to learn whether there's a connection between the rumored ghost and her restless visitors, the lighthouse keeper mysteriously falls to his death, and Cass's reputation for communing with the dead lands her right in the middle of the police investigation.

HAINES, CAROLYN bones GARLAND OF BONES (#22) (\$10.99) Sarah Booth has traded in hosting this Christmas season for a road trip with her besties. Each little Delta town has a special Christmas activity, and Sarah Booth's bff and detective partner, Tinkie, has arranged to rent a limo for the gang and drive to Columbus, MS, to stay in a B&B. Visions of Christmas shopping, parade floats, and romantic rendezvous are already dancing in their heads. But Christmas cheer soon turns to Christmas fear when, at one event after another, people keep getting hurt. Christmas karaoke gets ugly when one singer's microphone gives her an electric shock. A party during a historic home tour ends with a fall down the stairs for one of Columbus's most disreputable "players." And when the woman who hires Sarah Booth to find the villain behind the so-called accidents is nearly killed with an arrow during a holiday mumming, Sarah Booth knows something more sinister is at work.

HANNAH, SOPHIE poiroit KILLINGS AT KINGFISHER HILL (#4) (\$21) Hercule Poirot is traveling by luxury passenger coach from London to the exclusive Kingfisher Hill estate. Richard Devonport has summoned the renowned detective to prove that his fiancée, Helen, is innocent of the murder of his brother, Frank. Poirot will have only days to investigate before Helen is hanged, but there is one strange condition attached: he must conceal his true reason for being there from the rest of the Devonport family. The coach is forced to stop when a distressed woman demands to get off, insisting that if she stays in her seat, she will be murdered. Although the rest of the journey passes without anyone being harmed, Poirot's curiosity is aroused, and his fears are later confirmed when a body is discovered with a macabre note attached . . .

HARMEL, KRISTIN FOREST OF VANISHING STARS (\$24.99) After being stolen from her wealthy German parents and raised in the unforgiving wilderness of eastern Europe, a young woman finds herself alone in 1941 after her kidnapper dies. Her solitary existence is interrupted, however, when she happens upon a group of Jews fleeing the Nazi terror. Stunned to learn what's happening in the outside world, she vows to teach the group all she can about surviving in the forest—and in turn, they teach her some surprising lessons about opening her heart after years of isolation. But when she is betrayed

and escapes into a German-occupied village, her past and present come together in a shocking collision that could change everything. Inspired by incredible true stories of survival against staggering odds. . .

HARRIS, ROBERT V2 (\$12.99) Rudi Graf has dreamt of sending a rocket to the moon since childhood. Instead, along with his friend Werner von Braun, he has helped create the world's most sophisticated weapon—the V2 ballistic missile, capable of delivering a one-ton warhead at three times the speed of sound. In a desperate gamble to avoid defeat, Hitler orders 10,000 to be built. Now, in the winter of 1944, Graf finds himself in a bleak seaside town in Occupied Holland. Haunted and disillusioned, he's tasked with firing the V2s at London. Nobody understands the volatile, deadly machine better than he does. As the death toll soars, the separate stories of Graf and Kay ricochet off one another, until in a final explosion of violence their destinies are forced together.

HAWKINS, PAULA GIRL ON THE TRAIN (\$17.95) Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and every night. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to watch the same couple having breakfast on their deck. She's started to feel like she knows them; she calls them Jess and Jason. Their life—as she sees it—is perfect. Then Rachel sees something shocking as she's passing by on the train—it's only for a minute, but it's enough. And now everything's changed, and she can't keep it to herself. But the police don't know if they should trust her as a reliable source. Soon she's deeply entangled not only in the investigation, but also in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good?

HENDERSON, ALICE carter SOLITUDE OF WOLVERINES (#1) (\$21.99) While studying wolverines on a wildlife sanctuary in Montana, biologist Alex Carter is run off the road and threatened by locals determined to force her off the land. Undeterred in her mission to help save this threatened species, Alex tracks wolverines on foot and by cameras positioned in remote regions of the preserve. But when she reviews the photos, she discovers disturbing images of an animal of a different kind: a severely injured man seemingly lost and wandering in the wilds. After searches for the unknown man come up empty, local law enforcement is strangely set on dismissing the case altogether, raising Alex's suspicions. Then another invasive predator trespasses onto the preserve. The hunter turns out to be another human—and the prey is the wildlife biologist herself. Alex realizes too late that she has seen too much—she's stumbled onto a far-reaching illegal operation and now has become the biggest threat.

HENRY, JULIA garden squad WREATHING HAVOC (#4) (\$11.99) Lilly Jayne typically spends the harvest season baking festive pies and crafting colorful wreaths to enter in the library's annual fundraising contest. But this year, autumn opens on a somber note when beloved local theater owner, Leon Tompkin, dies unexpectedly. His memorial sets the scene for a mini reunion of The Goosebush Players' best and brightest alumni, including Hollywood star, Jeremy Nolan...until someone plucks Jeremy from the spotlight, permanently. Now, as dedicated theater volunteer, Scooter McGee, falls under suspicion, Lilly and her Garden Squad must spring into action. They quickly discover a cornucopia of potential suspects in Jeremy's murder. Was it an embittered ex...or a jilted lover? A rival thespian...or an overly ambitious artist? Lilly rakes through the piles of clues, but if she doesn't uncover the real killer soon, more than autumn leaves will be dropping in Goosebush..

HERRON, MICK slow horses SLOUGH HOUSE (#7) (\$20.95) At Slough House—MI5's London depository for demoted spies—Brexit has taken a toll. The "slow horses" have been pushed further into the cold, Slough House has been erased from official records, and its members are dying in unusual circumstances, at an unusual clip. No wonder Jackson Lamb's crew is feeling paranoid. But are they actual targets? With a new populist movement taking hold of London's streets and the old order ensuring that everything's for sale to the highest bidder, the world's a dangerous place for those deemed surplus. Jackson Lamb and the slow horses are in a fight for their lives as they navigate dizzying layers of lies, power, and death.

HUBER, ANNA LEE kent **MURDER MOST FAIR (#5)** (\$21.95) November 1919. A relaxing few weeks by the seaside with her husband, Sidney, could almost convince Verity Kent that life has returned to the pleasant rhythm of pre-war days. Then Verity's beloved Great-Aunt Ilse lands on their doorstep. After years in war-ravaged Germany, Ilse has returned to England to repair her fragile health—and to escape trouble. Someone has been sending her anonymous threats, and Verity's Secret Service contacts can only provide unsettling answers. Even deep in the Yorkshire Dales, where she joins Verity's family for the holidays, Ilse encounters difficulties. Normally peaceful neighbors are hostile, seeking someone to blame for the losses they've endured. When Ilse's maid is found dead, Verity must uncover whether this is anti-German sentiment taken to murderous lengths, or whether there is a more personal motive at work. Could Verity's shadowy nemesis, Lord Ardmore, be involved? And if so, how much closer to home will the blow land when he inevitably strikes again?

HURLEY, GRAHAM wars within **LAST FLIGHT TO STALIN-GRAD (#5)** (\$21.95) For four years, the men in field grey have helped themselves to country after country across Western Europe. For Werner Nehmann, a journalist at the Promi—the Ministry of Propaganda—this dizzying series of victories has felt like a party without end. But now the Reich's attention has turned towards the East, and as winter sets in, the mood is turning. Werner's boss, Joseph Goebbels, can sense it. A small man with a powerful voice and coal-black eyes, Goebbels has a deep understanding the dark arts of manipulation. His words, his newsreels, have shaken Germany awake, propelling it towards its greater destiny and he won't let—he can't let—morale falter now. But the Minister of Propaganda is uneasy, and in his discomfort, has pulled Werner into his close confidence. And here, amid the power struggle between the Nazi Chieftains, Werner will make his mistake and begin his decent into the hell of Stalin-grad...

INNES, LOUISE thorne **DEATH AT HOLLY LODGE (#3)** (\$11.99) Ooh La La hair salon owner Daisy Thorne adores the Christmas cheer in her picturesque hometown of Edgemoor, England. Excitement is extra high this year, as international pop star, Mimi Levanté, the village's newest resident, begins renovating historic Holly Lodge. But the charming country home's makeover is cut short by a shocking discovery—the body of a man, dressed as Santa Claus, jammed inside the house's chimney! The secreted Santa is identified as Gregory Pearce, a local father who vanished on Christmas Eve two years ago. As the case moves from missing to murder, Daisy and dashing DCI Paul McGuinness begin combing through the clues of Christmases past. But the killer will go to great lengths to keep old crimes under wraps. Now, DCI McGuinness must protect Daisy as she tries to untangle the mystery before a merry murderer embarks on another slay ride.

JAMES, PETER grace **DEAD TOMORROW (#5)** (\$19.99) In an evil world, everything is for sale. The body of a missing teenager is dredged from the seabed off the Sussex coast, missing vital organs. Soon after, a further two more bodies are found. Caitlin Beckett, a fifteen-year-old in Brighton will die if she does not receive an urgent transplant. When the health system threatens to let her down her mother takes drastic action and goes to an online broker in black-market organs. The broker can provide what she wants, but it will come at a price. As Detective Superintendent Roy Grace investigates the recovered bodies, he unearths the trail of a gang of child traffickers operating from Eastern Europe. Soon Grace and his team will find themselves in a race against time to save the life of a young street kid, while a desperate mother will stop at nothing to save her daughter's life.

JANCE, J A brady **MISSING AND ENDANGERED (#19)** (\$12.99) When Jennifer Brady returns to Northern Arizona University for her sophomore year, she quickly becomes a big sister to her new roommate, Beth Rankin, a brilliant yet sheltered sixteen-year-old freshman. For a homeschooled Beth, college is her first taste of both freedom and unfettered access to the internet, and Jenny is concerned that she's too naive and rebellious for her own good. Her worries are well-

founded because one day Beth vanishes, prompting Jenny to alert campus authorities, local police, and her mom, Sheriff Joanna Brady—who calls in a favor. Beth is found, but Jenny's concern has unwittingly put her in the crosshairs of a criminal bent on revenge. **JAPRISOT, SEBASTIEN** **TRAP FOR CINDERELLA** (\$23.50) A young woman wakes in a hospital room. What happened to her and why is a mystery. Is she victim or murderer? The young woman has been badly injured in a fire and has amnesia. But what happened to her? Is she Mi, Micky or Michèle, or Do, Dominique? As she struggles to rebuild her identity, she starts to recall the crime that was committed and the house on the French Riviera. She remembers the rich heiress and the faithful friend—but which is she?

JOBB, DEAN **CASE OF THE MURDEROUS DR. CREAM** (\$24.99) “When a doctor does go wrong, he is the first of criminals,” Sherlock Holmes observed during one of his most puzzling murder investigations. Incredibly, at the time the words of the world's most famous fictional detective appeared in print in the Strand Magazine, a real-life Canadian doctor was stalking and murdering women in London's downtrodden Lambeth neighbourhood. Dr. Thomas Neill Cream had been a suspect in the deaths of two women in Canada, and had killed as many as four people in Chicago before he arrived in London in 1891 and began using pills laced with strychnine to kill prostitutes. The Lambeth Poisoner, as he was dubbed in the press, became one of the most prolific serial killers in history. In this fascinating book, the author reveals how bungled investigations, corrupt officials and failed prosecutions allowed Cream to evade detection or freed him to kill, again and again.

JOHNSON, CRAIG walt **NEXT TO LAST STAND (#16)** (\$23) One of the most viewed paintings in American history, Custer's Last Fight, copied and distributed by Anheuser-Busch at a rate of over two million copies a year, was destroyed in a fire at the 7th Cavalry Headquarters in Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1946. Or was it? When Charley Lee Stillwater dies of an apparent heart attack at the Wyoming Home for Soldiers & Sailors, Walt Longmire is called in to try and make sense of a piece of a painting and a Florsheim shoebox containing a million dollars, sending the good sheriff on the trail of a dangerous art heist. **JONES, PHILIP GWYNNE** **VENETIAN LEGACY (#5)** (\$17.99) Newlyweds Nathan Sutherland and Federica Ravagnan are looking forward to weeks of sunshine and relaxation on the island of Pellestrina, in a cottage belonging to Federica's late father, Elio. The weather is idyllic, the views across the lagoon are spectacular and the seafood is the best in Venice. But when the body of an eminent Venetian lawyer is dredged up by a fishing boat, members of the close-knit island community start to take an unhealthy interest in the two honeymooners, and whispers and rumours begin to circulate about Elio's association with a recently-deceased gang boss. As Federica struggles to come to terms with her father's troubled legacy, Nathan finds himself dragged into the search for the missing proceeds of an unsolved jewellery heist, and the unwanted centre of attention of the Mala del Brenta—the Venetian Mafia. Clearly Pellestrina is going to be no honeymoon...

KIES, THOMAS chase **SHADOW HILL (#4)** (\$22.99) Just days before Morris Cutter, a retired powerful oil executive, is scheduled to give a pseudo-scientific report to Congress that will delay crucial action on climate change for decades, he and his wife are found shot to death in their Greenwich, Connecticut, home. The police call it murder-suicide. The couple's son refuses to accept the official conclusion and hires Geneva Chase, crime reporter turned private detective, to prove otherwise. Genie soon learns that there are suspects everywhere, including within the deceased's immediate family. Morris Cutter's own daughter hadn't spoken with him in years, and his nephew is a climate activist with a radical organization. But Cutter's former company has a vested interest in keeping a low profile until it is able to present its mock-science on Capitol Hill. Genie is bribed, then threatened, to wrap up her investigation before the scheduled hearing date—and to concur with the police findings. When the lead scientist of the study goes missing, followed by Cutter's daughter, Genie begins to piece together what actually may have happened to Morris and

Julia Cutter, putting herself in harm's way as she races to find the truth.

KURIAN, VERA NEVER SAW ME COMING (\$24.99) It would be easy to underestimate Chloe Sevre... She's a freshman honor student, a legging-wearing hot girl next door, who also happens to be a psychopath. She spends her time on yogalates, frat parties and plotting to kill Will Bachman, a childhood friend who grievously wronged her. Chloe is one of seven students at her DC-based college who are part of an unusual clinical study of psychopaths—students like herself who lack empathy and can't comprehend emotions like fear or guilt. The study, led by a renowned psychologist, requires them to wear smart watches that track their moods and movements. When one of the students in the study is found murdered in the psychology building, a dangerous game of cat and mouse begins, and Chloe goes from hunter to prey. As she races to identify the killer and put her own plan for revenge into action, she'll be forced to decide if she can trust any of her fellow psychopaths—and everybody knows you should never trust a psychopath.

LAWRENCE, CAROLE hamilton EDINBURGH MIDNIGHT (#3) (\$23.95) Spiritualism has captured the public's imagination. Séances are all the rage, and Detective Ian Hamilton's otherwise sensible aunt Lillian is not immune to their allure. But for Ian, indulging her superstitions has its limits. When members of Lillian's circle of séance friends begin turning up dead, Ian doesn't need a medium to tell him these aren't freak accidents. With the help of his friend Arthur Conan Doyle, Ian investigates, and he is soon drawn into a dark world of believers and tricksters, and a puzzling series of murders with no pattern, no motive, and no end in sight. Most alarming, the crimes conjure up the ghosts of Ian's own past, including the mysterious deaths of his parents, which have haunted him for years. As two cases converge, science collides with the uncanny, and Ian must confront truths that are more disturbing than he could ever have imagined.

LAWRENCE, CAROLE hamilton EDINBURGH DUSK (#2) (\$23.95) A wicked Scottish winter has just begun when pioneering female physician Sophia Jex-Blake calls on Detective Inspector Ian Hamilton to investigate the suspicious death of one of her patients—a railroad lineman who she believes succumbed to the horrific effects of arsenic poisoning. The most provocative aspect of the case doesn't escape Hamilton: the married victim's numerous sexual transgressions. Now, for the first time since the unexplained fire that killed his parents, Hamilton enters the Royal Infirmary to gain the insights of brilliant medical student Arthur Conan Doyle. Then a second poisoning occurs—this time, a prominent banker who died in the bed of a prostitute. It appears that someone is making Edinburgh's more promiscuous citizens pay for their sins. As the body count rises and public panic takes hold, Hamilton and Doyle delve into the seedy underbelly of the city, where nothing is as it seems, no one is immune to murder, and even trusted friends can be enemies in disguise.

LEESON, GAYLE down south TRUFFLES AND TRAGEDY (#6) (\$25.99) When her cousin, Jackie, asks her to give a presentation to her online class, Amy thinks all she has to worry about is speaking before a group. But then the nitpicky professor collapses. He has been murdered, and hot-tempered Jackie is the prime suspect. Some online forums are even speculating that the professor was an extra-terrestrial, so Amy must sort out fact from fiction to get to the truth. Certain the real killer is setting Jackie up, will Amy be able to outwit the killer and save her cousin?

LEESON, GAYLE fashionista BUTTONS AND BLOWS (#4) (\$25.99) The note, typed on a manual typewriter, is Amanda Tucker's first introduction to the second ghost she's ever met. When retro fashion designer Amanda learns that Violet, the sweet little old lady from whom she bought antique buttons, has been murdered, she's dismayed—especially when she realizes the murder occurred the evening after Amanda had visited Violet's shop. Now the ghost who was enamored of the victim is demanding that Amanda help him bring the woman's killer to justice. It certainly isn't an ideal time for Amanda's parents to be visiting her from Florida for the first time. In addition to Max, the ghostly fashionista, Amanda now has another sassy specter to deal with. Will this one haunt her for the rest of her life?

MACINTYRE, BEN AGENT SONYA: MOSCOW'S MOST DARING WARTIME SPY (\$22) In 1942, in a quiet village in the leafy Cotswolds, an unassuming woman lived in a small cottage with her children and machinist husband, Len. Ursula Burton was friendly but reserved and spoke English with a slight foreign accent. By all accounts, she seemed to be living a simple life. Her neighbours had no idea that Burton was in fact a dedicated communist and Soviet Colonel who had conducted espionage operations in China, Poland, and Switzerland. They did not know that Burton kept a powerful radio transmitter connected to Moscow in the outhouse or that Len too was a spy. And they certainly did not know that Burton frequently biked across the countryside to rendezvous with Klaus Fuchs, the nuclear physicist working on Britain's top-secret atomic-weapons program—also her best agent. Code-named "Sonya," she was one of the most important female spies in history. Hunted by the Chinese, Japanese, Nazis, MI5, MI6, and FBI, she evaded all and survived the brutal Soviet purges that left her friends and colleagues dead.

MACLACHLIN/MCLACHLIN, BEVERLEY jill DENIAL (#2) (\$24.99) Jilly Truitt has made a name for herself as one of the top criminal defense lawyers in the city. Where once she had to take just about any case to keep her firm afloat, now she has her pick—and she picks winners. So, when Joseph Quentin asks her to defend his wife, who has been charged with murdering her own mother in what the media are calling a mercy killing, every instinct tells Jilly to say no. Word on the street is that Vera Quentin is in denial, refusing to admit to the crime and take a lenient plea deal. Quentin is a lawyer's lawyer, known as the Fixer in legal circles, and if he can't help his wife, who can? Against her better judgment, Jilly meets with Vera and reluctantly agrees to take on her case. Call it intuition, call it sympathy, but something about Vera makes Jilly believe she's telling the truth. Now, she has to prove that in the courtroom against her former mentor turned opponent, prosecutor Cy Kenge—a man who has no qualms about bending the rules.

MACLEAN, S G seeker BEAR PIT (#4) (\$17.99) London, 1656: Captain Seeker is back in the city, on the trail of an assassin preparing to strike at the heart of Oliver Cromwell's Republic. The Commonwealth is balanced on a knife edge. Royalists and disillusioned former Parliamentarians have united against Oliver Cromwell, now a king in all but name. Three conspirators, representing these factions, plan to assassinate the Lord Protector, paving the way back to the throne for Charles Stuart once and for all. The Royalists in exile have sent to London their finest mind and greatest fighter, a man who will stop at nothing to ensure the Restoration. Has Seeker finally met his match? **MACTIERNAN/MCTIERNAN, DERVLA cornac GOOD TURN (#3) (\$25.50)** Police corruption, an investigation that ends in tragedy, and the mystery of a little girl's silence—three unconnected events that will prove to be linked by one small town. While Detective Cormac Reilly faces enemies at work and trouble in his personal life, Garda Peter Fisher is relocated out of Galway with the threat of prosecution hanging over his head. But even that is not as terrible as having to work for his overbearing father, the local copper for the pretty seaside town of Roundstone. For some, like Anna and her young daughter, Tilly, Roundstone is a refuge from trauma. But even this village on the edge of the sea isn't far enough to escape from the shadows of evil men.

MARK, DAVID roe GUEST HOUSE (#1) (\$21.95) How much would you pay to survive? Mother-of-three Ronni Ashcroft had just pieced her life back together after her husband left. On a remote spur of the Scottish Highlands, she kept her successful guest house going and even met a new man, Bishop. But it turned out that Bishop had secrets. He had shady connections and shadier plans to use the coastal town as a European gateway for drugs, guns – and something far worse. Now he's disappeared, and Ronnie wants answers.

MARTINEZ, AGUSTIN VILLAGE OF THE LOST GIRLS (\$14.99) Five years after their disappearance, the village of Monteperrido still mourns the loss of Ana and Lucia, two eleven-year old friends who left school one afternoon and were never seen again. Now Ana reappears unexpectedly inside a crashed car, wounded but alive. The case reopens and a race against time begins to discover

who was behind the girls' kidnapping and most importantly: Where is Lucia and is she still alive? Inspector Sara Campos and her boss Santiago Bain, from Madrid's head office are forced to work with the local police. Five years ago fatal mistakes were made in the investigation conducted after the girls first vanished, and this must not happen again. But Monteperdido has rules of its own.

MIRANDA, MEGAN SUCH A QUIET PLACE (\$24.99) Hollow's Edge used to be a quiet place. A private and idyllic neighborhood where neighbors dropped in on neighbors, celebrated graduations and holiday parties together, and looked out for one another. But then came the murder of Brandon and Fiona Truett. A year and a half later, Hollow's Edge is simmering. The residents are trapped, unable to sell their homes, confronted daily by the empty Truett house, and suffocated by their trial testimonies that implicated one of their own. Ruby Fletcher. And now, Ruby's back. With her conviction overturned, Ruby waltzes right back to Hollow's Edge, and into the home she once shared with Harper Nash. Harper, five years older, has always treated Ruby like a wayward younger sister. But now she's terrified. What possible good could come of Ruby returning to the scene of the crime? And how can she possibly turn her away, when she knows Ruby has nowhere to go? Within days, suspicion spreads like a virus across Hollow's Edge. It's increasingly clear that not everyone told the truth about the night of the Truett's murders. And when Harper begins receiving threatening notes, she realizes she has to uncover the truth before someone else becomes the killer's next victim.

MOYES, PATRICIA tibbett TWICE IN A BLUE MOON (#19) (\$24) What could be more delightful than a long-forgotten relative who dies and leaves you a tidbit in his will? How about if that tidbit is in fact a charming country pub, and that pub is now yours—lock, stock, and barrels of beer? Susan Gardineris delighted, even when it becomes clear that the establishment has a line-up of regulars, not all of them as endearing as one might perhaps prefer. No, she doesn't love all her new customers, but she certainly didn't intend for one of them to be poisoned by a bad batch of mushrooms! The outlook is dire for both Susan and the Blue Moon...until Inspector Henry Tibbett steps in. He and Emmy just want a spot of lunch, but they are, as ever, willing to take on more than they had bargained for.

OKSANEN, SOFI DOG PARK (\$22.95) Helsinki, 2016. Olenka sits on a bench, watching a family play in a dog park. A stranger sits down beside her. Olenka startles; she would recognize this other woman anywhere. After all, Olenka was the one who ruined her life. And this woman may be about to do the same to Olenka. Yet, for a fragile moment, here they are, together—looking at their own children being raised by other people. Moving seamlessly between modern-day Finland and Ukraine in the early days of its post-Soviet independence, this is “a keenly observed, dark, and propulsive novel set at the intersection of East and West, centered on a web of exploitation and the commodification of the female body.”

PATTERSON, JAMES SHADOW (\$22.99) Only two people know that 1930s society man Lamont Cranston has a secret identity as the Shadow, a crusader for justice. One is his greatest love, Margo Lane, and the other is fiercest enemy, Shiwan Khan. When Khan ambushes the couple, they must risk everything for the slimmest chance of survival . . . in the future. A century and a half later, Lamont awakens in a world both unknown and disturbingly familiar. The first person he meets is Maddy Gomes, a teenager with her own mysterious secrets, including a knowledge of the legend of the Shadow. Most disturbing, Khan's power continues to be felt over the city and its people. No one in this new world understands the dangers of stopping him better than Lamont Cranston. And only the Shadow knows that he's the one person who might succeed before more innocent lives are lost.

PATTERSON, JAMES cross DEADLY CROSS (#28) (\$22.99) Kay Willingham led a life as glamorous as it was public—she was a gorgeous Georgetown socialite, philanthropist, and the ex-wife of the vice president. So why was she parked in a Bentley convertible idling behind a DC private school, in the middle of the night, with the man who was the head of that school? Who shot them both, point blank, and why? The shocking double homicide is blazed across the internet,

TV, newspapers—and across Alex Cross's mind. Kay had been his patient once. And maybe more.

PAUL, GILL COLLECTOR'S DAUGHTER (\$21.99) Lady Evelyn Herbert, daughter of the Earl of Carnarvon, left behind the world of society balls and chaperones to travel to the Egyptian desert, where she hoped to become a lady archaeologist, working alongside her father and Howard Carter in the hunt for an undisturbed tomb. In November 1922, their dreams came true when they discovered the burial place of Tutankhamun, packed full of gold and unimaginable riches, and she was the first person to crawl inside for three thousand years. She called it the “greatest moment” of her life—but soon afterwards everything changed, with a string of tragedies that left her world a darker, sadder place. Newspapers claimed it was “the curse of Tutankhamun,” but Howard Carter said no rational person would entertain such nonsense. Yet fifty years later, when an Egyptian academic came asking questions about what really happened in the tomb, it unleashed a new chain of events that seemed to threaten the happiness Eve had finally found.

PENNEY, ELIZABETH bookshop CHAPTER AND CURSE (#1) (\$12.99) Librarian Molly Kimball and her mother, Nina, need a change. So when a letter arrives from Nina's Aunt Violet in Cambridge, England requesting their help running the family bookshop, they jump at the chance. 'Thomas Marlowe—Manuscripts and Folios, is one of the oldest bookshops in Cambridge, and—unfortunately—customers can tell. When Molly and Nina arrive, spring has come to Cambridge and the famed Cambridge Literary Festival is underway. Determined to bring much-needed revenue to the bookstore, Molly invites Aunt Violet's college classmate and famed poet Persephone Brightwell to hold a poetry reading in the shop. But the event ends in disaster when a guest is found dead—with Molly's great-aunt's knitting needle used as the murder weapon. While trying to clear Violet and keep the struggling shop afloat, Molly sifts through secrets past and present, untangling a web of blackmail, deceit, and murder.

PENROSE, ANDREA wrexford MURDER AT QUEEN'S LANDING (#4) (\$21.95) When Lady Cordelia, a brilliant mathematician, and her brother, Lord Woodbridge, disappear from Regency London, rumors swirl concerning fraudulent bank loans and a secret consortium engaged in an illicit—and highly profitable—trading scheme that threatens the entire British economy. The incriminating evidence mounts, but for Charlotte and Wrexford, it's a question of loyalty and friendship. And so they begin a new investigation to clear the siblings' names, uncover their whereabouts, and unravel the truth behind the whispers.

PERRY, ANNE elena standish QUESTION OF BETRAYAL (#2) (\$23) Britain's secret intelligence service, MI6, has lost contact with its informant in northern Italy, just as important information about the future plans of Austria and Nazi Germany is coming to light. And young Elena Standish, to her surprise, is the only person who can recognize MI6's man—because he is her former lover. Aiden Strother betrayed Elana six years ago, throwing shame on her entire family. Now, with so much to prove, Elena heads to Trieste to track down Aiden and find out what happened to his handler, who has mysteriously cut off contact with Britain.

PRESSEY, ROSE craft fair MURDER CAN FROST YOUR DOUGHNUT (#4) (\$11.99) Celeste has pulled up in her pink Shasta trailer, aka mobile art studio, to the Sevier County Fair in the mountains of eastern Tennessee to sell her paintings. A highlight of the fair promises to be the celebrity impersonation contest. But the low point is when Celeste and her floppy-eared white Chihuahua Van (short for Van Gogh) find an Elvis impersonator in his trailer doing a great impression of a corpse, clutching a doughnut in his hand. Seeking a vision to solve the crime, Celeste paints her own Elvis portrait—and suddenly the ghost of the Elvis impersonator appears. They say fools rush in, but with the help of this spirit, Celeste sets out to find the real killer among all the fake celebrities. It's now or never, because there won't be time to tell the killer: “Don't be cruel.”

PRESTON & CHILD kelly SCORPION'S TAIL (#2) (\$22.99) A mummified corpse, over half a century old, is found in the cellar of an abandoned building in a remote New Mexico ghost town. Rookie FBI

Agent Corrie Swanson is assigned what seems to her a throwaway case: to ID the body and determine cause of death. She brings archaeologist Nora Kelly to excavate the body and lend her expertise to the investigation, and together they uncover something unexpected and shocking: the deceased apparently died in agony, in a fetal position, skin coming off in sheets, with a rictus of horror frozen on his face. Hidden on the corpse lies a 16th century Spanish gold cross of immense value.

When they at last identify the body—and the bizarre cause of death—Corrie and Nora open a door into a terrifying, secret world of ancient treasure and modern obsession: a world centered on arguably the most defining, frightening, and transformative moment in American history.

REDMOND, HEATHER dickens CHRISTMAS CAROL MURDER (#3) (\$21.95) In the third installment of Heather Redmond's historical mystery series that cleverly reimagines Charles Dickens's life, he and fiancée Kate Hogarth must solve the murder of an old miser, just before Christmas...London, December 1835: Charles and Kate are out with friends and family for a chilly night of caroling and good cheer. But their blood truly runs cold when their singing is interrupted by a body plummeting from an upper window of a house. They soon learn the dead man, his neck strangely wrapped in chains, is Jacob Harley, the business partner of the resident of the house, an unpleasant codger who owns a counting house, one Emmanuel Screws.

RENNISON, NICK AMERICAN SHERLOCKS: STORIES FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF AMERICAN DETECTIVE (\$27.95) Sherlock Holmes is the most famous of all fictional detectives but, across the Atlantic, he had plenty of rivals. Between 1890 and 1920, American writers created dozens and dozens of crime-solvers. This thrilling, unusual anthology features stories about 15 of them, including Professor Augustus SFX Van Dusen, 'The Thinking Machine', even more cerebral than Holmes; Craig Kennedy, the so-called 'scientific detective'; Uncle Abner, a shrewd backwoodsman in pre-Civil War Virginia; Violet Strange, New York debutante turned criminologist; and Nick Carter, the original pulp private eye. The author gathers together often neglected tales which highlight American crime fiction's early years.

SCOTT, JAMES A PRESIDENT'S DOSSIER (\$23) Max Geller: Target of the Kremlin, MI6, and the CIA! Fired for bias against the U.S. president, ex-CIA Russia expert Max Geller gets a chance to redeem his reputation and make a fortune when he is hired to investigate the president's incriminating ties to Moscow. Jill Rucker, an undercover CIA agent, is assigned to work with him—and she does—when she's not pursuing her own conflicting goals. He gets help from an anti-Russian underground cell in Moscow, is assisted and threatened by the Russian mafia, exposes a massive Russian-American money laundering scheme in Panama, and uncovers a plot to protect the president from mounting accusations threatening his presidency. Max Geller is the spy who went out in the cold—and no one wants him to come in and tell what he knows.

SEECK, MAX niemi ICE COVEN (#2) (\$23) Six months have passed since Jessica's encounter with the mysterious serial-killing coven of witches and the death of her mentor. Her nightmares about her mother and the witchcraft that undid her have only gotten worse, but she's doing what she can to stay focused. Her homicide squad, now under new leadership, has been given a murder case and a new series of disappearances to investigate. A young woman's corpse has washed up on an icy beach, and two famous Instagram influencers have gone missing at the same time. The missing influencers and the murdered woman all have ties to a sinister cult. Jessica finds an eerie painting—of a lighthouse on a remote island—as she investigates, and under the picture is a gruesome poem detailing a murder. The nightmares about her mother suddenly seem all too real, making Jessica wonder if the dead woman might be trying to tell her something about the killings. And as Jessica works frantically to solve her latest case, her horrific past comes roaring back and threatens to destroy her.

SEELEY, MABEL CHUCKLING FINGERS (\$22) Rediscover one of the great mystery authors of the twentieth century in this Depres-

sion-era tale of a wealthy family's dark secrets turned deadly on their secluded lakeside estate. An urgent note from a friend spurs Ann Gay to visit her recently married cousin, Jacqueline Heaton. Upon her arrival at Fiddler's Fingers, a remote, pine-grown estate on Lake Superior, Ann immediately senses her cousin's fear—someone has been playing increasingly malicious tricks on the Heaton family, a proud family of Minnesota lumber tycoons, and worse yet, they seem determined to frame Jacqueline. Potential motives are revealed as Ann learns more about the Heaton family, and with no chance of anyone leaving Fiddler's Fingers until the killer is caught, Ann realizes that the only way to prove her cousin's innocence is by snaring the murderer herself. The trap is set; with herself as bait, Ann's door creaks open in the night as a cloaked figure moves silently toward her bed...

SMITH, ALEXANDER botswana HOW TO RAISE AN ELEPHANT (#21) (\$21) Precious Ramotswe loves her dependable old van. Yes, it sometimes takes a bit longer to get going now, and it has developed some quirks over the years, but it has always gotten the job done. This time, though, the world—and Charlie—may be asking too much of it, for when he borrows the beloved vehicle, he returns it damaged. And, to make matters worse, the interior seems to have acquired an earthy smell that even Precious can't identify. But the olfactory issue is not the only mystery that needs solving. Mma Ramotswe is confronted by a distant relative, Blessing, who asks for help with an ailing cousin. The help requested is of a distinctly pecuniary nature, which makes both Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni and Mma Makutsi suspicious. And there is no peace at home, either, as the new neighbors are airing their marital grievances rather loudly. Still, Mma Ramotswe is confident that the solutions to all of these difficulties are there to be discovered—as long as she is led by kindness, grace, and logic and can rely on the counsel of her friends and loved ones.

SMITH, KAREN ROSE daisy MURDER WITH ORANGE PEKOE TEA (#7) (\$11.99) Daisy's orange pekoe is flowing at a fundraiser—and she's also made a new friend, Piper, a young woman whose hopes for motherhood were dashed by a foul-up at a fertility clinic. But before they can settle into a long conversation, the event is disrupted by masked protestors who object to building a shelter in Willow Creek. Among the angry crowd is Eli—who left his Amish community some time ago, with help from a lawyer named Hiram. It just so happens that Hiram is also representing the fertility clinic in a class-action suit—and soon afterward, he turns up dead, felled by an insulin injection. Daisy can't help but get drawn in, especially since Piper's husband had been pretty steamed at the victim and didn't hide it. She'd love to spend some time with the dog she and her boyfriend have just adopted—but first she'll be straining to find a killer...

SPAIN, NANCY birdseye DEATH GOES ON SKIS (#1) (\$12) Our dashing heroine, Miriam Birdseye, a famous revue artist, takes to the slopes with her coterie of admirers. Champagne flows and wherever Miriam goes she leaves a trail of gossip in her wake. Fellow ski-resort guests include the celebrated Russian ex-ballerina, Natasha Nevkorkina, whose beauty is matched only by her languor, Natasha's burly husband, nightclub owner Johnny DuVivien, and the wealthy Flahertés, a family who have made their money importing scents: handsome playboy Barney, his wife Regan, their two obnoxious children and the governess, Rosalie. Unbeknownst to Regan, Barney's mistress, a film star, is also there with her husband. When secrets start to unravel, tensions rise, and soon amateur sleuths Miriam and Natasha have not one but two murders to solve.

STEWART, AMY kopp sisters MISS KOPP INVESTIGATES (#7) (\$22.99) Winter 1919: Norma is summoned home from France, Constance is called back from Washington, and Fleurette puts her own plans on hold as the sisters rally around their recently widowed sister-in-law and her children. How are four women going to support themselves? A chance encounter offers Fleurette a solution: clandestine legal work for a former colleague of Constance's. She becomes a "professional co-respondent," posing as the "other woman" in divorce cases so that photographs can be entered as evidence to procure a divorce. While her late-night assignments are both exciting and lucrative, they put her on a collision course with her own family, who would never approve of such disreputable work. One client's suspi-

cious behavior leads Fleurette to uncover a much larger crime, putting her in the unlikely position of amateur detective.

STOCKWIN, JULIAN kydd KYDD (#1) (\$17.99) Thomas Paine Kydd, a young wig-maker from Guildford, is seized by the press gang to be a part of the crew of the 98-gun line-of-battle ship Royal William. The ship sails immediately and Kydd has to learn the harsh realities of shipboard life fast. Despite all the danger of tempest and battle he goes through, he comes to admire the skills and courage of the seamen - taking up the challenge himself to become a true sailor. Published 2001.

STRALEY, JOHN cold storage WHAT IS TIME TO A PIG? (#3) (\$20.95) It's been seven years since Gloomy Knob landed in a Federal Penitentiary and five years since the end of the war, the one North Korea started when they sent a missile to Cold Storage, Alaska. Serving a life sentence for the murder of his sister, Gloomy spends his time trying to forget the past. Then one day, Gloomy is snatched from his off-site work station as his kidnappers believe Gloomy knows where a second nuclear warhead is hidden and demand to know where it is. The clock is ticking, and Gloomy knows that unless he finds the missing warhead fast, his wife, his friends, and the entire town of Cold Storage will be obliterated. The only problem? He has no idea where it is. As Gloomy struggles to escape, the memories he fought hard to repress begin to creep out from the strange corners of his mind, first in rivulets, then in waves. In a drug-induced haze, Gloomy makes a discovery that may just bring him the closure he desires—if it doesn't kill him first.

TAYLOR, BRAD logan AMERICAN TRAITOR (#15) (\$12.99) Pike Logan and Jennifer Cahill are enjoying a sunny vacation down under when they get disturbing news: their friend and colleague Clifford Delmonty is in serious trouble. While working as a contractor at an Australian F-35 facility, the former Taskforce member—callsign Dunkin—saw something he shouldn't have, and now he's on the run from Chinese agents. Pike learns that the Chinese have a devious plan to bait the island nation into all-out war by destabilizing the government and manipulating an artificial intelligence defense system.

THORNTON, SARAH jones WHITE THROAT (#2) (\$23.50) Disgraced former lawyer Clementine Jones is on the shores of paradise—Queensland's Great Sandy Straits—trying to outrun her past. Bored with her house-sitting gig, she becomes a reluctant recruit to the local environmental group, campaigning to save an endangered turtle as developers close in. Then a body is found at the base of a quarry, and Clem's world is turned upside down. The police say suicide. Clem's convinced it was murder. She also knows she's the only one interested in tracking down the killer. Well, the only one apart from her friend Torrens, ex-con and reformed standover man. And he's got his own fight on his hands.

THORNTON, STEPHANIE MARIE MOST CLEVER GIRL (\$23) A thrilling novel of love, loyalty, and espionage, based on the incredible true story of Elizabeth Bentley, a Cold War double agent spying for the Russians and the United States.

TRACY, P J nolan DEEP INTO THE DARK (#1) (\$9.99) Sam Easton—a true survivor—is home from Afghanistan, trying to rebuild a life in his hometown of LA. Separated from his wife, bartending and therapy sessions are what occupy his days and nights. When friend and colleague Melody Traeger is beaten by her boyfriend, she turns to Sam for help. When the boyfriend turns up dead the next day, a hard case like Sam is the perfect suspect. But LAPD Detective Margaret Nolan, whose brother recently died serving overseas, is sympathetic to Sam's troubles, and can't quite see him as a killer. She's more interested in the secrets Melody might be keeping and the developments in another murder case on the other side of town. Set in an LA where real people live and work...

TUROW, SCOTT LAST TRIAL (\$12.99) At eighty-five years old, Alejandro "Sandy" Stern, a brilliant defense lawyer with his health failing but spirit intact, is on the brink of retirement. But when his old friend Dr. Kiril Pafko, a former Nobel Prize winner in Medicine, is faced with charges of insider trading, fraud, and murder, his entire life's work is put in jeopardy, and Stern decides to take on one last tri-

al. In a case that will be the defining coda to both men's accomplished lives, Stern probes beneath the surface of his friend's dazzling veneer as a distinguished cancer researcher. As the trial progresses, he will question everything he thought he knew about his friend. Despite Pafko's many failings, is he innocent of the terrible charges laid against him? How far will Stern go to save his friend, and—no matter the trial's outcome—will he ever know the truth?

TURSTEN, HELENE nystrom SNOWDRIFT (#3) (\$20.95) One winter night, 28-year-old Detective Inspector Embla Nyström receives a phone call that sends her reeling. It's been fourteen years since her best friend disappeared from a nightclub in Gothenburg, but Embla recognizes her voice before the call abruptly disconnects. Embla is thrilled to learn Lollo is still alive, but before she can dive into the case, she gets another phone call—this time from a relative. A man has been found shot dead in one of the guest houses he and his wife manage in rural Sweden. Could she come take a look? When Embla arrives on the scene, she receives another shock. The dead man is Milo Stavic, a well-known gang member and one of the last people seen with Lollo. And, as Embla soon learns, the same night that Milo was shot in the guest house, his brother Luca was also killed. Why, after all these years, is someone targeting the Stavic brothers, and where is the third brother? With help from a handsome local detective and his police dog in training, Embla launches an investigation into the three Stavic brothers, hoping it will bring her closer to finally finding Lollo and putting an end to her terrible nightmares.

VIVIAN, FRANCIS knollis NINTH ENEMY (#4) (\$23.99) Inspector Knollis of Scotland Yard is hoping for a nice quiet weekend in the country. Instead, he is embroiled in a murder case—the death by gunshot of local bigwig Richard Huntingdon. Jean, the dead man's wife, discovers the body in dense woods near a river. Knollis soon learns that Jean's previous husband also met an untimely end, not that she is the only suspect. Despite his reputation for good deeds, Huntingdon had enemies in the district, including the progressive Bishop of Northcote. And it turns out the late Mr. Huntingdon was intimately involved with a grade-A femme fatale... published 1948.

WAGNER, DAVID P RETURN TO UMBRIA (#4) (\$27.99) When Rick Montoya traveled to his mother's Italy from his father's Santa Fe, New Mexico, to work as a freelance translator using his dual heritage, he didn't expect to be helping the Italian police. His maternal uncle, a high-level commissioner in Rome, however, sees no reason not to use the resources at hand. The trouble begins when Rick is asked by his uncle to go to Orvieto to talk some sense into his cousin Fabrizio, whose fling with an older married woman is embarrassing the family. Rick agrees to give it a try. Less than a day after arrival, his language skills draw him into the brutal murder of an American visitor. The murdered woman had studied art in Italy decades earlier—why has she returned now? And when a second murder occurs in a public park—narrowly missing Rick himself—he can't help but wonder if his family has anything to do with the case.

WINGATE, MARTY first MURDER IS A MUST (#2) (\$10.99) Hayley Burke, curator of Lady Fowling's collection of first edition mysteries, is settling into her position at the First Edition Library in Middlebank House. She's even made progress with Lady Fowling's former secretary, the ornery Miss Woolgar. The women are busily preparing for an exhibition that will showcase Lady Fowling's life and letters. Hayley knows the exhibition is a huge undertaking and decides, against her better judgement, to hire Oona Atherton, her former boss from the Jane Austen Centre to help with the planning. Oona is known for being difficult, but all seems to be going swimmingly until she and Hayley uncover a one-page letter that alludes to a priceless edition of Murder Must Advertise signed by several Golden Age of Mystery authors. Oona feels this book could be the focal point of the exhibition and becomes obsessed with finding it. When they find clues that appear to point to the book being somewhere in the First Edition Library, Oona is certain she's unraveled the mystery and texts Hayley the good news, but upon arriving back at Middlebank, Hayley finds her old boss dead at the bottom of the stairs. Did her discovery of the rare book get her killed or was it some angry

shadow from her past? Hayley must read between the lines to catch a malicious murderer. Excellent, says Marian.

WOLF, KLAUS-PETER OATH (#1) (\$21.95) Former chief of police, Ubbo Heide, is enjoying a peaceful seaside retirement—until a gruesome package containing a severed head turns up on his doorstep and catapults him back into a world he left behind. When a torso is found on the local beach, it's assumed it's from the same victim. That is until a second head turns up. As the investigation reaches fever pitch, Chief Inspector Ann Kathrin Klaasen, now assigned to the case, realizes that the two victims are connected. Soon it's clear that this quiet coastal community is facing a brutal serial killer. One who is taking justice into his own hands . . .

WOODMAN, RICHARD drinkwater BRIG OF WAR (#3) (\$24.50) Nathaniel Drinkwater is promoted lieutenant of the brig Helbore and the two are sent to the Red Sea with an urgent warning from Admiral Nelson to the British squadron there. Nelson's apprehensions over French ambitions in the East are more than justified as Edouard Santhonax, Drinkwater's old enemy, is already preparing for a French descent on India.

WOODS, STUART barrington HUSH-HUSH (#56) (\$12.99) Stone Barrington is settling in for some downtime in New York City when an anonymous enemy makes himself known. This nameless foe's threats hit close to home, and before Stone can retaliate, the fearsome messages turn into very real consequences. With the help of old friends—and a lovely new tech-savvy acquaintance—Stone sets out

to unravel the fatal agenda. But as the web of adversaries expands, Stone realizes that no place is safe, and he'll have to flush out the mastermind before he and those closest to him are silenced for good...
YOUNG, HEATHER DISTANT DEAD (\$21) A body burns in the high desert hills. A boy walks into a fire station, pale with the shock of discovery. A middle school teacher worries when her colleague is late for work. By day's end, when the body is identified as local math teacher Adam Merkel, a small Nevada town will be rocked to its core. Excellent.

YU, OVIDIA crown colony CANNONBALL TREE MYSTERY (#5) (\$17.99) The overpoweringly fragrant flowers, snakelike vines and deadly fruit of the cannonball tree are enough to keep most people away. But when a piece of expensive photographic equipment is found nearby, on closer inspection Su Lin discovers the body of Mimi, her horrible relative who has been trying to blackmail her. Su Lin is not the only one to realise how much easier this death makes things for her in the new normal of life in Syonan (Japanese Occupied Singapore). And then more fortuitous deaths follow. But is someone really killing people on her account? As Su Lin contends with the fear and rancour of those around her, the resentment of former friends and a whistling demon, can she hope not only to survive but untangle the cannonball tree's secrets to prevent further deaths... and possibly turn the tide of the war?